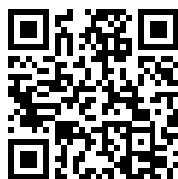

This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

<https://books.google.com>



Stanford University Libraries

3 6105 116 562 682





STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

251342
G787

St. Barb. Colonial Office

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1322.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1925.

(For Reports for 1923 and 1924 see Nos. 1242 and 1278, respectively,
price 9s. each.)



LONDON :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses :
Adastrol House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh ;
York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast ;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1322.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1925.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Introduction.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Falkland Islands comprise a group of islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, lying some 300 miles east, and somewhat to the north, of the Straits of Magellan. The geographical position is between 51° and 53° S. latitude and between 57° and 62° W. longitude. There are two main islands, known as the East and West Falkland, which are divided by a sound running approximately north-east. There are numerous smaller islands clustered round each of these. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty Chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands ...	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands ...	2,038
Total area of group ...	<u>4,618</u>

DESCRIPTIVE.

The Falkland Islands are in general appearance treeless, bleak and inhospitable. The scenery generally is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands, where somewhat similar climatic conditions prevail. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast, but there are numerous excellent harbours. There are no high mountains, the highest point in the group being Mount Adam, 2,315 ft., in the West Falkland. The country may best be described as in the narrative of the "Challenger" Expedition as a "treeless expanse of moorland and bog and bare and barren rock."

The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on an excellent natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. There are some 890 residents only. Beyond the limits of the town there are no roads, and all inland travel is done on horseback, with pack horses for transport. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which the country is divided.

HISTORICAL.

A group of six or seven islands situated to the east of the Patagonian coast appears in maps of South America from 1507 onwards. No written record remains of their discovery, but it is probable that they may have been what are now known as the Jason Islands, lying to the extreme north-west of the Falklands. They were subsequently seen on the 24th of January, 1600, by the Dutch navigator, Sebald de Weert, and were named after him. Meanwhile, part of the Falkland Islands group was sighted by John Davis, master of the "Desire," on the 14th of August, 1592, and his is the first known written mention of them. From his discovery they were called Davis' Southern Islands. In February, 1594, the first inspection of the Falklands was made by Sir Richard Hawkins in the "Dainty," a vessel of 400 tons. He coasted round a considerable part of the group and described the country at length. He made some inaccurate deductions from what he saw, and in the narrative of his voyage he gives the latitude, by manifest error, possibly in transcription, three degrees out, but there can be no reasonable doubt that he actually surveyed the Falkland Islands and was the first to describe them. It was not until 1690 that any landing was made. On the 27th of January (Old Style) in that year, Captain Strong visited the islands, in a vessel called the "Welfare," sailing up the sound between the East and West Falklands and naming it "Fawkland Sound." He landed at several points, obtaining geese, ducks and fresh water. The naming of the group as the Falkland Islands derives its origin from Captain Strong's visit.

During the first half of the 18th century, adventurers, in vessels fitted out at St. Malo, visited the islands which then obtained the name from the French of *Iles Malouines*, transformed later by the Spaniards to *Islas Malvinas*. In 1764 a French settlement was planted by de Bougainville at a spot named Port Louis in Berkeley Sound, a few miles north of Port William. A British garrison was posted at an island in the West Falkland in 1766, England reasserting her claim to the sovereignty of the group, which had been formally proclaimed in the previous year at the same place, on the ground of priority of discovery. In 1767 France ceded her rights in the country to Spain for the sum of £25,000. Three years later a Spanish squadron of five frigates drove out the British garrison, but the action was disowned by the Spanish Government, and the British garrison was restored by Spain in 1771. In 1774 the post was temporarily abandoned. It is believed that the Spanish garrison was withdrawn in 1800. According to Admiral Fitzroy "From 1810 to 1820 there was no person upon these islands who claimed even a shadow of authority over them." In November of the latter year the flag of "The United Provinces of South America" was hoisted with a claim to sovereignty. There does

not appear to have been any occupation until 1823, when one Louis Vernet, a German, obtained a concession from the Buenos Aires Government for the use of the fishery, cattle and tracts of land in the East Falkland. The action of this Government was scarcely known in Europe until 1829, when a formal protest was made by Great Britain. In the same year Vernet was appointed Governor of the islands by the Government of the United Provinces of South America. In 1831 his settlement was, however, broken up by a United States corvette, and many persons, including his agent, were deported in retaliation for an exercise by him of his fishery rights against American sealers. Some years later, and after further British occupation, Vernet accepted compensation in full for all his property left in the islands. In January, 1833, Great Britain, following up the warnings given four years previously, reassumed occupation, and settled and developed the islands. The settlement was in charge of naval officers down to 1842, when Richard Clement Moody, a subaltern in the Royal Engineers, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor. He was raised to the rank of Governor shortly afterwards.

The Colony received grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government up to 1880, since which time it has been self-supporting.

CONSTITUTION.

The Government of the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies is administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council composed of three official members and one unofficial member, and a Legislative Council composed of three official and two unofficial members. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council are appointed by Warrant under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet for a term not exceeding five years.

I.—General Observations.

The Falkland Islands are inhabited almost exclusively by people of pure British origin. The descendants of the early pioneers now own the greater part of the land.

The Colony is entirely divided into sheep farms. Nearly one-third of the total area is owned by the Falkland Islands Company, who own about one-third of the sheep. The balance of the land is divided into thirty-three farms of which sixteen run over ten thousand sheep and the remainder less than that number. Of the larger farms many are now owned by private companies under the direction of resident managers.

The sheep-farming industry was made the subject of exhaustive enquiry during the year 1924, and in accordance with the conclusions arrived at from the investigation a scheme has been evolved and inaugurated for the establishment of an experimental farm under the auspices of the Government.

During the year under review a start was made on the works for the improvement of the sanitary and road conditions of Stanley, initiated in 1922, and referred to in last year's Report. These works have been undertaken after protracted examination of the requirements of the town and comprise a water supply, a drainage system, and the reconstruction of the principal roads of the town. The revised estimate of the cost of the works is £35,000 and it is hoped that they will be completed early in 1928.

A few motor vehicles have recently been introduced into the Colony for use both in Stanley and around certain of the farm settlements. At present it is only possible to travel by motor over very short distances, but it is reasonable to believe that, with the improvements which are taking place in motor vehicles, a wider field may be opened up for their use in the Colony.

II.—Financial.

(a) REVENUE.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1925 from all sources was £57,511, the revenue from normal sources, excluding the Dependencies' share in the cost of the Central Administration, being £40,783. The ordinary revenue exceeded the ordinary expenditure for the year by £3,716.

The amount derived from taxation in 1925 was £15,000, as against £14,910 in 1924. Of this sum 55 per cent. was contributed by the sheep-farming interests, 40 per cent. by the community generally, and 5 per cent. by the residents of Stanley. No additional taxation was imposed during the year under review.

(b) EXPENDITURE.

The ordinary expenditure for 1925, including the sum of £1,125 under Public Works Extraordinary, was £37,067. In addition, the sum of £19,770 was expended out of the surplus balances principally in connection with the Stanley Improvement Scheme to which reference has been made above, and also on the execution of repairs to the jetty in the Government dockyard and on the extension of the Wireless Station at Stanley. £2,499 was disbursed from the Land Sales Fund to meet the cost of the initial works on the establishment of an experimental farm. As in previous years the ordinary expenditure, excluding Miscellaneous Services, £4,572, was heaviest under the Port and Marine Department, £5,395, the Medical Department, £3,596, the Public Works Department, Ordinary and Recurrent, £3,228 and £3,285, respectively, and under the Post Office, £2,844, which includes the maintenance of the revenue-producing wireless telegraphy station.

(c) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1925, amounted to £231,669. The following statement shows the balances at the beginning and at the end of the year :—

	1st January.	31st December.
	£	£
Land Sales Fund	188,276	192,067
Marine Insurance Fund	818	1,424
General Account	46,394	38,178
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£235,488	£231,669
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(d) CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council dated the 7th March, 1899. It was estimated that on the 31st of December, 1925, there was £3,000 of specie in circulation. During the year the issue circulation of Government notes stood at £18,000.

The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank, which, as its name implies, is solely a bank of deposit. The rate of interest paid is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. At the close of the Bank's financial year on the 30th of September, 1925, the total sum deposited was £122,517, and the number of deposit accounts 874, as against 834 on the 30th of September, 1924.

(e) GENERAL.

The year 1925 was a satisfactory one financially, and it is a matter of gratification to observe that, while the expenditure from the surplus balances as stated above was £19,770, the funds standing to the credit of the General Account of the Colony were reduced by £8,216 only.

III.—Trade, Industries and Shipping.

TRADE.

	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£
Imports	141,080	154,893	161,106
Exports	167,440	267,312	330,454
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Trade ...	£308,520	£422,205	£491,560
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Imports.

The following is a comparative table of the imports for the years 1923, 1924 and 1925:—

	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco	38,813	53,692	49,114
Raw Materials and articles mainly un-manufactured ...	12,883	21,685	14,257
Articles wholly or mainly manufac-tured	81,949	74,791	82,459
Live Stock	7,435	4,725	15,251
Bullion and Specie ...	—	—	25
Total	<u>£141,080</u>	<u>£154,893</u>	<u>£161,106</u>

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1925 were:—

	<i>Value.</i>
	£
Groceries	31,358
Hardware and Machinery...	25,138
Live Stock	15,251
Drapery	11,131
Timber	9,961
Coal and Coke	3,843

Approximately 81 per cent. of the imports of the Colony came from the United Kingdom, to a value of £131,811. Imports from other sources amounted to:—

	£
Chile	17,574
Uruguay	5,393
Argentina	4,824
Norway	511
Other Countries	993
Total from Foreign Countries ...	<u>£29,295</u>

There are no import duties except on spirits 15s. per gallon, wine 2s. and beer 6d. per gallon in bulk, tobacco 3s. a lb., and cigars 5s. a lb.

The following is a table of the dutiable imports and the revenue derived :—

				<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i> £
Spirits	...	...	...	3,808 gals.	2,856
Wine	...	...	...	1,124 „	125
Beer	...	...	...	10,706 „	277
Tobacco	...	...	...	15,239 lb.	2,287
					<hr/> £5,545 <hr/>

Exports.

Of the total exports for the year, £307,740 represented the value of the wool exported.

The following table compares the exports of wool in the years 1923, 1924 and 1925. The values given are based on the bottom prices in the year previous to that of export, and show the continued recovery of the market :—

			<i>Quantities exported</i> <i>in lb.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £
1923	...	...	4,596,600	142,755
1924	...	...	4,106,990	253,567
1925	...	...	3,361,003	307,740

There is an export duty on wool of 1s. on each 25 lb. of wool exported.

INDUSTRIES.

The sole local industry of any importance is the sheep-farming industry. The year under review was again prosperous for farmers from the immediate financial aspect; the yield of wool was less than in previous years but the prices realised were high, ranging, according to grade, from 1s. 4d. to 2s. 5d. per lb. The general health of the flocks was satisfactory despite the somewhat severe conditions which prevailed during the lambing season.

SHIPPING.

The total number of vessels which entered the Colony in 1925 was 107, with a total tonnage of 147,911, as compared with 61, and a tonnage of 115,273, in 1924. Of these, 26 with a tonnage of 78,583 were British.

The following table shows the number, nationality and description of the vessels entered :—

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Steamships.</i>		<i>Sailing ships.</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British ...	26	78,583	—	—
Norwegian ...	62	58,545	—	—
Chilean ...	9	2,571	4	282
Argentine ...	3	5,728	3	2,202
Total ...	100	145,427	7	2,484

IV.—Education.

The education of children between the ages of five and fourteen years, residing in Stanley, is compulsory. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one maintained by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management. The children in the country districts are taught by travelling teachers, two of whom are provided by the Government and two by the Falkland Islands Company, Limited. The Company also retains a resident teacher at its station at Darwin.

The number of children taught during the year is as shown below :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
At the Government School ...	106	71	177
At the Roman Catholic School...	22	47	69
By the Government Travelling Teachers ...	15	13	28
By the Falkland Islands Company's Teachers ...	47	27	74
Totals ...	190	158	348

The arrangements, referred to in last year's Report, for boarding children from the country districts attending school in Stanley at the Government Hostel, were continued during the year. The hostel has fully justified its provision; there were eight or nine children in residence most of the year. The charge for each child during residence is £1 a month. Assistance is also given to parents who prefer boarding their children in private houses, the Government contributing in such cases two-thirds of the cost, not exceeding £2 a month for each child. The number of outside boarders varied from 10 to 13—about double the number in 1924.

V.—Climate.

The climate of the Falklands, though trying on account of the continuous high winds in the summer months, is very healthy. It is generally described as rigorous, but this is misleading. There are seldom heavy frosts, and snow, which never lies long, is rarely more than ankle deep. Severe storms are of less frequent occurrence and intensity than in the United Kingdom. The islands lie in the south temperate storm belt, but north of the line along which the cyclonic centres most frequently pass. The winds almost invariably commence in the early hours of the day from the north-west and veer to the south-west in increasing force towards midday. Rainfall is well distributed over the year. The average fall is 26·43 inches per annum, or slightly more than at Kew. Although the temperature seldom rises above 63°, it falls below freezing point on about 50 days only throughout the year.

The mean barometric pressure during the year 1925 was 29·57 inches. The mean temperature was 41·6°, the absolute maximum, 70°, being recorded on the 3rd of March, and the absolute minimum, 17°, on the 25th of June. The total rainfall recorded was 21·14 inches, the heaviest fall being '83 inches on the 29th of April. The mean wind force was 3·0 Beaufort scale.

The weather throughout the year was again comparatively mild.

VI.—Communications.

The total number of mails received at Stanley during 1925 was eleven, of which ten came by vessels arriving via Montevideo, and one via Punta Arenas, Chile. Sixteen mails were despatched; nine direct or via Montevideo, six via Valparaiso and the Andes, or Panama, and one via Punta Arenas. Only two passenger vessels called at Stanley during the year.

Inter-insular mail communication in 1925 was fairly well maintained, the Government patrol boat rendering good service in this connection. Communication with the Dependency of South Georgia was maintained by the Tönsberg Whaling Company under contract with the Government, and one voyage was also made from Stanley to the Dependency of the South Shetlands during the whaling season.

Two wireless stations for external traffic are maintained by the Government, one at Stanley and one at Cumberland Bay, Grytviken, in the Dependency of South Georgia. A small station on the West Falkland is also maintained by the Government for inter-insular communication. The traffic is transmitted and received principally through Montevideo, and also through Punta Arenas. Telegraphic charges are 4s. 2d. a word to the United Kingdom and 1s. 2d. a word to Montevideo and Punta Arenas.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1925, was 2,252, composed of 1,273 males and 979 females. The birth-rate was 17·76 per 1,000 and the death-rate 10·06 per 1,000.

VIII.—Social.

The cost of living is moderate in country districts, as in any similar pastoral community, but freight rates make imported provisions costly. Prices of provisions in 1925 were, with few exceptions, the same as in 1924. Mutton cost 3d. a lb., beef 5d. a lb., butter 2s. 6d. a lb., milk 1s. a quart, bread 1s. 2d. a quartern loaf, tea 3s. a lb.

Wages on the farm stations were from £5 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat and milk found. Town labourers were paid from £10 per month or a shilling an hour, and artisans from £10 to £20 or 1s. 4½d. an hour.

There was with insignificant exception no evidence of unemployment during 1925, the population as in past years adjusting itself to the demand for labour.

DEPENDENCIES.

Introduction.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Dependencies consist of the following groups of islands : South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands, and the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land, situated in the South Atlantic to the south of the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and lying between the twentieth and the eightieth degrees of west longitude. The total area of land and sea included in the Dependencies amounts to more than three million square miles.

South Georgia, the principal island in the Dependencies, lies in latitude 54½° S. and longitude 36° to 38° W. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles.

DESCRIPTIVE.

The island of South Georgia is a mass of high mountains covered with snow where not too precipitous, while the valleys between are filled with glaciers which in many cases descend to the sea. The coastal region is free from snow in summer and more or less clothed with vegetation. Land whaling stations have been established in some of the numerous bays. There

is a permanent resident population engaged in the whaling industry. The Resident Magistrate and other officials are stationed at Grytviiken Harbour.

The remaining Dependencies are even more inhospitable, being nearly completely covered with snow and ice and almost entirely destitute of plant life. The chief harbour is Port Foster, at Deception Island, in the South Shetlands. These Dependencies are, however, ice free for some four or five months in the year only.

HISTORICAL.

The regions in which the Dependencies lie were visited by a number of navigators in the sixteenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries, usually involuntarily, in endeavours to round Cape Horn or pass through the Straits of Magellan. Captain Cook sighted and took possession of South Georgia and the Sandwich group for Great Britain in 1775. The large number of whales was especially reported upon. Mr. William Smith, in the snow "Williams" of Blyth, took possession of the South Shetlands in 1819. The South Orkneys were annexed by Captain George Powell in 1821. Mr. Edward Bransfield, R.N., under whom Mr. William Smith sailed in 1819-20, discovered the first part of Graham's Land, and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832.

Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793, and British Whalers were met there in 1819. The fur-seal industry achieved such large proportions that no less than 91 vessels visited these islands in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1821-22. They are said to have practically exterminated the fur-seal, so recklessly did they work and wantonly slaughter. James Weddell stated that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

I.—General Observations.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are inhabited almost exclusively and utilised mainly by foreigners, and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. A resident official staff is stationed at South Georgia, which is the only part of the Dependencies which is permanently habitable. Such control as is possible over whaling operations in the other Dependencies is carried out by Government officials who accompany the expeditions.

At South Georgia five land stations have been established by whaling companies, sites of 500 acres in extent being taken up for periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. The leases include the right to use two whale catchers without the payment of additional licence fees. The harbours in the other Dependencies are ice bound for about seven

months in the year, and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories. There are also land stations at Deception Island and at the South Orkneys, the personnel of which arrive and return with the whaling fleets.

The Royal Research Ship "Discovery," to which reference is made in the Report for 1924, was completed and commenced work during the year in accordance with the recommendations* of the Interdepartmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies. She proceeded first to South Africa and did not arrive at South Georgia until the beginning of 1925. A second ship the "William Scoresby" was constructed and launched during the year. She is built on the lines of an ordinary whale catcher and is intended to be employed primarily for the marking of whales. She has been named out of compliment to the father and son bearing that name, of whom the father did much to develop the practical side of whaling, and the son may be regarded as the pioneer of whaling research and the founder of Polar science. The buildings for the Marine Biological Station at Grytviken were also completed during the year.

II.—Financial.

The revenue derived from the Dependencies in 1925 was £180,098. The local expenditure was £77,928, leaving a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £102,170.

Under instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the surplus of the Dependencies' revenue, after providing for local services and meeting a share of the cost of central administration in the Falklands, is reserved for research and development purposes. On the 31st of December, 1925, the total sums standing to the credit of the Research Fund amounted to £303,988.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

There are no banking facilities. The bulk of the payments, including the export duty on whale oil, is paid by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—Trade, Industries and Shipping.

TRADE.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1925 was £3,957,850, of which £372,740 represented imports and £3,585,110 exports. Of the imports, coal, coke and oil fuel accounted for £140,876 and provisions for £48,614. The exports of whale products amounted to £3,581,569.

* See Cmd. 657.

INDUSTRIES.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the sole industry. The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May, and the sealing season from the 1st of March to the 31st of October.

Export duty at the rate of 5s. a barrel is payable on oil at the time of shipment. Owing to the collapse of the market for oil in 1920 one-half of the duties collected in respect of the season 1920–21 was refunded and from this time onwards a system of rebates, based on the average market price of oil, has been in operation. A refund of 2s. a barrel was made in respect of the season 1924–25, making the effective duty 3s. per barrel. Export duty at the rate of 1½d. per 100 lb. is payable on guano.

During the season 1924–25 whaling operations were conducted at South Georgia, South Shetlands and South Orkneys. Whaling was commenced earlier and continued later than had been customary, and in the case of the South Shetlands the prolongation of operations necessitated special arrangements being made for the supply of coal by transports. The total catch of 10,057 whales, yielding 661,998 barrels of oil, was the largest hitherto recorded. The price obtained for the oil averaged £33 a ton.

The following table shows the size and the value of the catches during the past four seasons:—

<i>Season.</i>	<i>Whales Captured.</i>	<i>Barrels of Oil Produced.</i>	<i>Average of Barrels per Whale.</i>	<i>Value. £</i>
1921–22 ...	6,955	448,885	64·54	2,244,390
1922–23 ...	9,915	611,372	61·66	3,056,860
1923–24 ...	6,737	427,321	63·43	2,492,700
1924–25 ...	10,057	661,998	66·10	3,640,989

Sealing operations yielded 6,891 barrels of oil, as compared with 7,486 barrels produced in the previous season.

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the number of vessels which entered at South Georgia during 1925:—

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Steam- ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Sailing Ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British ...	12	26,170	—	—
Norwegian ...	22	27,876	—	—
Argentine ...	3	5,728	3	2,202

Grytviken, in South Georgia, and Port Foster, in South Shetlands, are the only ports of entry in the Dependencies.

IV.—Climate.

Five meteorological stations are maintained at South Georgia by the whaling companies with shore factories, and one is maintained in the South Orkneys by the Argentine Government.

The average temperature at South Georgia was 36°. In December, January and February it ranged between 40° and 41°, and in the three coldest months, June, July and August, between 29° and 31°.

During the year 1925 rain fell on 129 days and snow and sleet on 173 days. A total rainfall of 66·49 inches was recorded, the greatest rainfall being in April with 13·89 inches.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence. Some unhealthiness is caused by the absence of fresh provisions, but the climate is undoubtedly healthy.

V.—Communications.

Vessels for South Georgia call at South American ports on their way out, and there is more or less regular communication between South Georgia and Buenos Aires. The South Shetlands whaling fleet calls at Stanley on the way south in October–November and again on the return voyage in April–May.

Direct communication was maintained during 1925 between Stanley and South Georgia by means of a vessel belonging to the Tønsberg Whaling Company, which is under contract with the Government to provide five round voyages between Stanley and Grytviken during the whaling season, and two additional voyages during the winter months. The terms of this contract also provide for one round voyage during the whaling season between Stanley and Port Foster in South Shetlands.

The erection of a wireless station at Grytviken, South Georgia, was completed during the year.

VI.—Population.

South Georgia has a fluctuating population of about 1,000.

The estimated population on the 31st of December, 1925, was 1,337, composed of 1,334 males and three females. About 1,000 of the whaling population are natives of Sweden and Norway.

J. M. ELLIS,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

11th November, 1926.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 6d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1924-25, No. 1293 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 6d.	MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 9d.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 .. 6d.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 1s.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290 .. 6d.	ST. LUCIA, 1924, No. 1268 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	SEYCHELLES, 1924, No. 1272 3d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1925, No. 1286 1s.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 6d.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1924, No. 1278 9d.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 1s. 6d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 .. 2s. 3d.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1924-25, No. 1284 1s.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
GRENADE, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	
HONG KONG, 1924, No. 1288 1s. 3d.	
JAMAICA, 1924, No. 1276 1s. 3d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE. REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial No. 15) .. 2s.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1323.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1925—26.

*(For Reports for 1923—24 and 1924—25 see Nos. 1232 and 1283,
respectively (price 1s. each.).)*



LONDON :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses :

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh ;

York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast ;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 1s. Net.

No. 1323.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925-26.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the " Lesser Antilles " in the West Indies, and lie between $18^{\circ} 27'$ and $15^{\circ} 10'$. The Colony is a Federation comprising the five " Presidencies ", formerly separate colonies, of Antigua; St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis; Dominica; Montserrat; and the Virgin Islands.

The Governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an " Administrator," while officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of " Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one Colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting the other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes the office of Administrator of Antigua; and, when the Governor is absent from the Colony, the Government is administered in accordance with the Dormant Commission issued for the purpose.

Councils.—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the Colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of ten official and ten elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts-Nevis, two by those of Dominica, and one by those of Montserrat, and one is a person, resident in the Virgin Islands, appointed by the Governor.

I. Financial.**REVENUE.**

During the financial year 1925-26 the total revenue (inclusive of £23,000 from Imperial Funds) of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands was £267,602, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	81,671
St. Kitts-Nevis	90,405
Dominica	61,623
Montserrat	21,371
Virgin Islands	12,532
Total	<u>£267,602</u>

showing an increase of £27,329 in comparison with the revenue of the previous year.

The following Grants-in-Aid from the Imperial Government are included in the above revenue :—

	£	
Antigua	450	For hurricane damage.
St. Kitts-Nevis	3,300	For hurricane damage.
Dominica	13,000	£8,000 in aid of Revenue and £5,000 for storm damage.
Montserrat	2,300	For hurricane damage.
Virgin Islands	3,950	For hurricane damage.
Total	<u>£23,000</u>	

EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure for the year 1925-26 was £268,861, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	79,004
St. Kitts-Nevis	88,888
Dominica	62,511
Montserrat	21,039
Virgin Islands	17,419
Total	<u>£268,861</u>

showing a decrease of £540 in comparison with the expenditure of the previous year.

The following table shows the amounts standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund on the 31st March, 1926 :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua	10,197	8	3
St. Kitts-Nevis	10,750	0	0
Dominica	5,427	8	6
Montserrat	10,000	0	0
Virgin Islands	10,090	10	10
Total	£46,465	7	7

The excess of liabilities over assets of £19,167 17s. 6½d. on the 31st March, 1926, was made up as follows :—

Presidency.	Assets.	Liabilities.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua		6,684 3 10
St. Kitts-Nevis	2,235 8 4	
Dominica		16,858 12 4
Montserrat	1,211 11 7½	
Virgin Islands	927 18 8	
	4,374 18 7½	23,542 16 2
	19,167 17 6½	
	£23,542 16 2	£23,542 16 2

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounted to £279,250 on the 31st March, 1926.

The following table shows the amount of loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of sinking funds on 31st March, 1926 :—

Presidency.	Total Amount of Loan Raised.	Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua	145,900 0 0	83,733 19 4
St. Kitts-Nevis	59,250 0 0	37,705 2 3
Dominica	60,000 0 0	39,689 6 4
Montserrat	14,100 0 0	7,108 4 0
	£279,250 0 0	£168,236 11 11

II. Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1925 amounted to £786,558, as against £753,170 in 1924, being an increase of £33,388.

The following table shows the imports into each Presidency of the Colony :—

	<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>British Possessions.</i>	<i>Foreign Countries.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	82,511	87,952	82,828	253,291
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	91,918	115,542	85,357	292,817
Dominica	52,111	50,308	43,785	146,204
Montserrat	14,638	35,491	9,674	59,803
Virgin Islands ...	3,093	8,712	22,638	34,443
Totals	<u>£244,271</u>	<u>£298,005</u>	<u>£244,282</u>	<u>£786,558</u>

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports for the year 1925 was £727,862, as against £667,623 in 1924, being an increase of £60,239.

The following table shows the exports from each Presidency of the Colony :—

	<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>British Possessions.</i>	<i>Foreign Countries.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	182,925	79,674	3,779	266,378
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	197,006	54,703	27,928	279,637
Dominica	40,367	17,919	67,310	125,596
Montserrat	40,121	3,813	1,408	45,342
Virgin Islands ...	187	361	10,361	10,909
Totals	<u>£460,606</u>	<u>£156,470</u>	<u>£110,786</u>	<u>£727,862</u>

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the year :—

	<i>British. Tons.</i>	<i>Foreign. Tons.</i>	<i>Total. Tons.</i>
Antigua	607,852	62,434	670,286
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	627,384	60,267	687,651
Dominica	539,898	64,186	604,084
Montserrat	278,466	1,030	279,496
Virgin Islands ...	13,345	3,140	16,485
Totals	<u>2,066,945</u>	<u>191,057</u>	<u>2,258,002</u>

III. Legislation.

Nine Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during the year 1925. The most important of these are :—

(a) The Magistrates Code of Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1925, which provides for the issue of free summonses to—

- (i) Public officers enforcing a public debt ;
- (ii) Poor plaintiffs who have a good ground of claim ;
- (iii) Persons seeking to recover compensation for services rendered under compulsion of law, without prepayment of their fees.

Where the Magistrate grants a free summons to a person other than a public officer enforcing a public debt, he is empowered to award costs to the successful plaintiff, which, if and when recovered, are to be paid into revenue.

(b) The Companies Act, 1925, which makes provision for the formation of private companies by two or more persons subject to the restrictions mentioned in Section 2 of the Act. Provision is also made for annual lists of members and certain certificates to be furnished to the Registrar. A private company may turn itself into a public company by special resolution.

(c) The Elementary Education Consolidation Act, 1925.—This Act repeals and consolidates in one enactment all the Education Acts of the Colony. Provision is made for the appointment of Local Boards with the Administrator or Commissioner, as the case may be, of each Presidency as Chairman. Elementary Education is now placed under the control of Local Boards in each Presidency. The Inspector of Schools is now the Federal Inspector and Deputy Chairman of each Local Board, provision being made for the appointment of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. Questions of finance are to be determined by the Governor.

Antigua.

The Legislature of Antigua passed eighteen Ordinances during the year 1925. Most of these Ordinances were amendments to existing Legislation dealing with Revenue. The only Ordinance which may be regarded as of importance is the Antigua Sugar Factory (Land Acquisition) Ordinance, 1925. This Ordinance enables the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, to acquire compulsorily certain lands set out in the Schedule to the Ordinance upon the conditions set out in the Ordinance.

Dominica.

During the year 1925, twenty-five Ordinances were passed, of which twelve were designed to raise additional revenue.

Ordinances Nos. 14 of 1925 and 18 of 1925, entitled respectively, "An Ordinance to regulate the Examination, Curing and Exportation of Tobacco," and "An Ordinance to impose an Excise Duty on Tobacco," are important.

The former provides for the control of a local tobacco industry and prohibits the export of tobacco unless it has been previously certified as "Fit for Export" by a Tobacco Examiner appointed by the Governor under Section 3, and the latter Ordinance is designed to make up, by way of Excise duty on locally-manufactured tobacco, an amount equal to the revenue which was formerly collected in the form of import duty on imported leaf tobacco, viz., about £2,000, by imposing an Excise duty of 2s. per lb. on all locally-manufactured tobacco.

The only other Ordinance which may be regarded as of importance is No. 23 of 1925, entitled "An Ordinance to regulate the Examination, Curing and Exportation of Vanilla, and to prohibit certain dealings with the same."

Owing to the increase in cultivation of vanilla by peasants and others, and also to the activities of thieves, this Ordinance was passed to protect growers and to facilitate the detection of stolen vanilla, as well as to prohibit the export of inferior vanilla.

Montserrat.

The Legislature of Montserrat passed thirteen Ordinances during the year 1925, the most important of which are :—

- (i) The Maintenance of Children Ordinance, 1925, which provides that every parent leaving the Presidency shall make adequate provision for the maintenance and care of his children during his absence.
- (ii) The Bush Fires Ordinance, 1925, ordained for the prevention of unauthorised bush fires.

St. Christopher and Nevis.

Eight Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of St. Christopher and Nevis during the year under review, all of which were of a formal nature.

Virgin Islands.

Seven Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands during the year 1925. The most important of these Ordinances are :—

- (i) The Gun Licences Ordinance, 1925, which provides for the registration and licensing of firearms; and
- (ii) The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance, 1925, which was drafted on the lines of the (Imperial) Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1924.

III. Legislation.

Nine Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during the year 1925. The most important of these are :—

(a) The Magistrates Code of Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1925, which provides for the issue of free summonses to—

- (i) Public officers enforcing a public debt ;
- (ii) Poor plaintiffs who have a good ground of claim ;
- (iii) Persons seeking to recover compensation for services rendered under compulsion of law, without prepayment of their fees.

Where the Magistrate grants a free summons to a person other than a public officer enforcing a public debt, he is empowered to award costs to the successful plaintiff, which, if and when recovered, are to be paid into revenue.

(b) The Companies Act, 1925, which makes provision for the formation of private companies by two or more persons subject to the restrictions mentioned in Section 2 of the Act. Provision is also made for annual lists of members and certain certificates to be furnished to the Registrar. A private company may turn itself into a public company by special resolution.

(c) The Elementary Education Consolidation Act, 1925.—This Act repeals and consolidates in one enactment all the Education Acts of the Colony. Provision is made for the appointment of Local Boards with the Administrator or Commissioner, as the case may be, of each Presidency as Chairman. Elementary Education is now placed under the control of Local Boards in each Presidency. The Inspector of Schools is now the Federal Inspector and Deputy Chairman of each Local Board, provision being made for the appointment of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. Questions of finance are to be determined by the Governor.

Antigua.

The Legislature of Antigua passed eighteen Ordinances during the year 1925. Most of these Ordinances were amendments to existing Legislation dealing with Revenue. The only Ordinance which may be regarded as of importance is the Antigua Sugar Factory (Land Acquisition) Ordinance, 1925. This Ordinance enables the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, to acquire compulsorily certain lands set out in the Schedule to the Ordinance upon the conditions set out in the Ordinance.

Dominica.

During the year 1925, twenty-five Ordinances were passed, of which twelve were designed to raise additional revenue.

Ordinances Nos. 14 of 1925 and 18 of 1925, entitled respectively, "An Ordinance to regulate the Examination, Curing and Exportation of Tobacco," and "An Ordinance to impose an Excise Duty on Tobacco," are important.

The former provides for the control of a local tobacco industry and prohibits the export of tobacco unless it has been previously certified as "Fit for Export" by a Tobacco Examiner appointed by the Governor under Section 3, and the latter Ordinance is designed to make up, by way of Excise duty on locally-manufactured tobacco, an amount equal to the revenue which was formerly collected in the form of import duty on imported leaf tobacco, viz., about £2,000, by imposing an Excise duty of 2s. per lb. on all locally-manufactured tobacco.

The only other Ordinance which may be regarded as of importance is No. 23 of 1925, entitled "An Ordinance to regulate the Examination, Curing and Exportation of Vanilla, and to prohibit certain dealings with the same."

Owing to the increase in cultivation of vanilla by peasants and others, and also to the activities of thieves, this Ordinance was passed to protect growers and to facilitate the detection of stolen vanilla, as well as to prohibit the export of inferior vanilla.

Montserrat.

The Legislature of Montserrat passed thirteen Ordinances during the year 1925, the most important of which are :—

- (i) The Maintenance of Children Ordinance, 1925, which provides that every parent leaving the Presidency shall make adequate provision for the maintenance and care of his children during his absence.
- (ii) The Bush Fires Ordinance, 1925, ordained for the prevention of unauthorised bush fires.

St. Christopher and Nevis.

Eight Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of St. Christopher and Nevis during the year under review, all of which were of a formal nature.

Virgin Islands.

Seven Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands during the year 1925. The most important of these Ordinances are :—

- (i) The Gun Licences Ordinance, 1925, which provides for the registration and licensing of firearms; and
- (ii) The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance, 1925, which was drafted on the lines of the (Imperial) Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1924.

Comparative table of Criminal Statistics for 1924 and 1925 :—

	1924.	1925.
Cases reported to the Police... ..	5,214	6,071
Number of cases brought before the Magisterial Courts	14,472	14,115
Summary convictions	10,352	9,050
Indictments in the Superior Courts	104	77
Convictions in the Superior Courts...	65	41

St. John's Training School.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On the 1st April, 1925, there were 25 boys at the school. During the year five boys were received. Twelve boys were discharged during the year, leaving 18 in the school on the 31st March, 1926. The daily average was 24. The expenditure was £547 13s. 5d., the cost per head to Antigua being £22 7s. 2d. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary work of the school.

VII. Police.

The actual strength of the Force on the 31st December last was 6 officers and 151 non-commissioned officers and men.

The authorised establishment, as provided for in the Colonial Estimates for the different Presidencies, was 6 officers and 153 non-commissioned officers and men. Dominica Division is much under-policed for its area, population, and the duties calling for discharge.

Two officers were appointed during the year, viz., Major C. H. Walker as Inspector, and Mr. H. G. Bell as Sub-Inspector. The former was posted to Dominica Division and the latter to Headquarters at Antigua. Captain P. Ruane, the senior Inspector, acted for the Chief Inspector during the latter's absence on leave in the United Kingdom. I regret to record that one officer, Captain C. D'P. D. Swain, Sub-Inspector, died at Antigua during the year. The Force and the Colony suffered by his death the loss of a promising young officer.

Twenty-one men were enlisted to fill vacancies, the figures being exactly the same as for the previous year. The men enlisted were of a good class.

Thirty-eight non-commissioned officers and men re-engaged for further three-year terms of enlistment.

Colonel-Commandant A. Mudge, C.B., C.M.G., commanding the troops at Jamaica, inspected the local forces, including the Leeward Islands Police, during the year, and his report was satisfactory.

The health of all ranks during the period under report was satisfactory, although a number of men suffered from sharp attacks of influenza. Two N.C.O's died during the year—one at Antigua and one at Dominica.

The general peace of the Colony was undisturbed during the year. There were no strikes or labour troubles calling for police interference.

VIII. Vital Statistics.

The total population of the Colony according to the Census of 1921 was 122,242, showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the Census of 1911.

ANTIGUA.

In Antigua the estimated population on the 31st December, 1925, was 29,470. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1925 was 93, as against 95 in 1924, while the births were 1,105, being 37·49 per thousand. The legitimate births were 237 and the illegitimate births 868, the percentages being 21·45 and 78·55 respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 722, which gives a death-rate of 24·49 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of 80 still-births, numbered 160, or 23·40 per cent. of the total.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

In respect of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, the number of inhabitants at the close of 1925 was estimated as follows:—St. Kitts 19,456, Nevis 12,135, Anguilla 4,565; the birth-rates being St. Kitts 47·3 per cent., Nevis 25·7, and Anguilla 33·00, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 35·6 per thousand, for Nevis 16·4, and for Anguilla 12·2. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 78·0 per thousand, for Nevis 60·6, and for Anguilla 53·6, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 22·0, 39·4 and 46·4 for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively.

The mortality of infants under one year of age was 186, 52, and 13 in St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively.

DOMINICA.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1925 was 40,075. The births registered during the year numbered 1,495, as against 1,672 in 1924, giving a birth-rate of 37·30 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 375 (935 as against 560), the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 37·85 and 62·15. The total number of registered deaths was 827, as against 838 in the previous year, while the death-rate was 20·63 per thousand.

MONTSERRAT.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1925 shows a population of 11,673 on the 31st December, 1925; the births registered being 392, as against 408 in 1924, and showing a birth-rate of 29·7. The legitimate births were 106, the illegitimate 286, the percentages being 27·04 and 72·96 respectively. The deaths registered were 285, as against 258 in 1924, and the death-rate was 24·41 per thousand, as against 21·9 per thousand in the previous year.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory.

IX. Meteorological Observations.

ANTIGUA.

The average rainfall at 68 stations was 30·75 in. The average rainfall for 53 years is 43·05 in., and the rainfall for 1925 was 30·75 in., or 12·30 below the average.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 5·30 in. on 5th July, and the lowest temperature for the year (60°) was registered on the 1st November and the highest temperature (92°) on the 30th April, 1925.

Seven earthquakes were recorded during the year.

ST. KITTS.

The rainfall at La Guerite Station was 42·16 in. for the year 1925.

DOMINICA.

The mean rainfall at different stations was:—

	<i>Inches.</i>
11 Leeward Stations	87·41
4 Windward Stations	137·48
5 Inland Stations	153·94
4 Lasoye Stations	117·50

X. Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Services.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Furness Withy & Co., Ltd., the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd., and the Colombian Line. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a launch belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows:—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week.

From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, and Europe and America by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company and by wireless telegraphy.

There is no communication by telegraph with the Virgin Islands, but messages can be sent to that Presidency via St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

XI. Civil Establishment.

Mr. Herbert Cecil Stronge, Chief Justice of Tonga, was appointed Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands. He assumed duty on 31st July, 1925.

Lt.-Col. T. R. St.-Johnston, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary), was appointed Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, and assumed duty on 23rd November, 1925. He administered the Government of Dominica from 5th June to 22nd November, 1925.

Mr. G. C. Johnson, Treasurer of St. Kitts-Nevis, acted as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands from 1st June, 1925, to 16th October, 1925.

Mr. Edward William Baynes, O.B.E. (of the Ministry of Health, London), was appointed Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands. He assumed duty on 17th October, 1925.

Mr. Harry Herbert Trusted was appointed 2nd Puisne Judge in the Leeward Islands. He assumed duty on 26th September, 1925.

HONOURS.

The following Honours were conferred by His Majesty during the year :—

The Most Reverend Edward Hutson, Archbishop of the West Indies, to be a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.

Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., Commissioner of Montserrat, Mr. R. C. Otway, Inspector of Works and Roads, Montserrat, Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., Magistrate of District " H," Nevis, and Captain O. L. Hancock, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, to be Officers (Civil Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., Principal Medical Officer, Dominica, to be a Knight Bachelor.

ANTIGUA.

The revenue for the year 1925-26 amounted to £81,671 11s. 8½d. The expenditure was £79,003 14s. 3d. The excess of revenue over expenditure was £2,667 17s. 5½d. On 1st April, 1925, the deficit of Antigua stood at £9,352 1s. 3½d.; on 31st March, 1926, it had been reduced to £6,684 3s. 10d. Against this deficit, the Crown Agents for the Colonies held at the close of the year, as a Reserve Fund, securities as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Face value	10,482	13	7
Cost	10,197	8	3
Market value at 31.3.26	11,063	5	5

REVENUE.

The revenue, estimated at £79,039, amounted to £81,671, showing an increase of £2,632 over the estimates. £450 of this, however, represents an Imperial grant-in-aid for repair of buildings damaged by the hurricane in 1924.

	£
The total revenue for 1925-26 was ...	81,671
The total revenue for 1924-25 was ...	78,983
The increase over the previous year being	2,688

The increase was due to additional taxation mainly under Customs—import duties.

The following heads of revenue show substantial increases when compared with the previous year :—

	Increase.
	£
Head 1. Customs	4,946
„ 2. Port and Harbour Dues ...	467
„ 3A. Municipal Rates	212
„ 4. Fees of Court	470

On the other hand there are noticeable decreases under the following heads :—

	Decrease.
	£
Head 3. Licences, Excise, etc....	3,102
„ 5. Post Office	355
„ 8. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	560

In the case of Head 3 the large decrease is due to decreased receipts under Income Tax. The reduction must be attributed to the very low price of sugar, the main industry of the Presidency.

Under “ Post Office ” the decrease is nominal, the previous year's receipts having been unduly inflated by collection of certain arrears of telephone rent. Miscellaneous receipts are invariably an unknown quantity.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £79,003, being £232 more than the original estimate. This was, however, £5,123 less than the expenditure for the previous year, and included £449 19s. 0d. expended from the Imperial Grant already referred to.

With the exception of increases shown under Head 2, Pensions, £700, and Head 5, Federal Contributions, £340, the increases call for little comment. Pensions are unavoidable, while the Federal Contribution is based on the revenue received. On the other hand there are marked decreases under almost every other head.

The position of Antigua at 31st March, 1926, shows a decided improvement on the previous year, and unless unforeseen difficulties arise there is no reason why the existing deficit of £6,684 should not be gradually worked off within the next two years.

AGRICULTURE.

The year 1925 from an agricultural standpoint was a satisfactory one. The sugar crop was the highest on record, but unfortunately prices had fallen.

The following extract from the annual report of the Directors of the Antigua Sugar Factory well illustrates the actual state of affairs :—

“ The results of the year are satisfactory. The price of sugar fell heavily, but the reduction in revenue owing to this was balanced by a large increase in the output of sugar, the cane supply being considerably in excess of any previous record. The additional supply was partly due to the weather conditions being very favourable throughout the year, the rainfall being good and well distributed, with the result that the yield per acre was double that of 1924 and the quality of the cane was good. The increase was also due to the factory getting (again) canes from the two groups of estates mentioned in the last report. These estates are now under definite contract with the factory. It will be seen from the figures* given below that the Company's output of sugar, 14,626 tons, was much above any previous record. Notwithstanding this, the factory coped with this large quantity, and, though the capacity of the plant was taxed to the utmost, it maintained the quality of its work at a high level. The Company has also benefited much by the restoration of the Tariff Preference, to last for 10 years, to the rate at which it stood prior to 1924, viz., £3 14s. 7d. per ton, 96° polarisation.”

The output from the other central factory (Bendals) was 2,370 tons of sugar.

* Not printed here.

During the year a railway line was started with the idea of linking up the Antigua Sugar Factory with the Bendals Sugar Factory.

The onion crop was very much in excess of previous years, a large crop having been experienced, but the prices obtained were exceedingly poor and insufficient to pay the cost of growing, and growers are discouraged. The total amount of crates (approximately 50 lb. each) exported was 7,259.

Cotton Industry.—Owing to favourable market reports there was a material increase in the acreage planted under this crop, which had declined considerably during recent years, falling off from 1,282 acres under cultivation in 1913-14 to 145 acres in 1924. During the year under review an acreage of 482 acres was officially reported, but there is material evidence that this was considerably increased.

The Antigua Cotton Growers' Association, a private concern, but an offshoot of the Department of Agriculture, and worked on a commercial basis, financed the purchase of peasants' cotton and was enabled to make a fair second payment as the results of the year's working of the Association.

The quantity of cotton exported for the year 1925 was as follows :—

Cotton lint, 37,250 lb.

Cotton seed, nil.

The latter product was consumed locally.

Many estates suffered from the ravages of the pink boll worm, and in general no second picking was permissible owing to this pest.

Lime Industry.—Five hundred gallons of concentrated lime juice was exported during the year under review, and 1,600 coconuts. Antigua, owing to its variable rainfall, does not appear to be well suited for the latter product.

Seed-work.—There is a considerable trade centred in this commodity, which is principally a peasant industry, the total value of the exports amounting to £1,335. This is apparently a thriving minor industry.

One of the features of the year was the holding of a very successful Agricultural, Industrial and Horticultural Exhibition on 29th January, 1925, at the instance of His Excellency the Governor, and under the direction of the Federal and Local Agricultural Departments, which proved an entire success both from a financial and general standpoint. Special prizes were awarded for cottage gardens and peasant cultivations and a good deal of interest was shown by these smaller growers.

NOTES ON RAINFALL AND WATER SUPPLIES.

The rainfall for 1925 was poor, the average for 68 stations being 30·75 inches, as compared with a similar average of 41·57 inches for the previous year, and a general average for 53 years of 43·05 inches, so that the general rainfall for 1925 was 12·3 inches below the average in question. It was, however, well and equitably distributed, and it materially helped in the obtaining of favourable crops. Despite this low rainfall, the water supply has been so materially improved during the present administration that the town of St. John's has had a full-time service and every arrangement made for a corresponding country service. Where it has been impossible to arrange for a satisfactory continuation of the daily country service from Wallings Reservoir this has been substituted by a service from a reservoir erected at Constitution Hill, in the vicinity of Fiennes Reservoir.

In addition, new wells were sunk in various districts of the Island—previously unsupplied and dependent upon more or less contaminated ponds—and a wholesome supply thus ensured.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The actual revenue for 1925-26 (exclusive of the Imperial Grant of £3,300 received during the year) was £87,104, being £3,896 short of the estimated revenue, and a decrease of £991 in the revenue received during the previous year. The drop in the anticipated revenue was due principally to import duties on alcoholic liquors, and export duty on the produce of the Presidency falling short of the estimate.

The actual expenditure for the year under review was £88,888, or £273 below that estimated, and a decrease of £6,622 as compared with the expenditure of 1924-25 (the year of reconstruction of 1924 hurricane damage). Included in the year's expenditure is the sum of £1,000 credited to the Reserve Fund account, thus increasing the Fund to £10,750, and £3,916 placed on deposit for the provision of a recreation ground for Basseterre.

The usual amounts were paid to the credit of the Sinking Funds of the various Loans, reducing the Public Debt at the 31st March, 1926, to £21,545; and at the close of the financial year there remained a surplus of £2,235.

The value of the imports for the calendar year 1925 was £292,817, being less by £4,363 than imports in 1924. Detailed figures show that trade within the Empire has increased appreciably during the year.

Exports for the same year totalled £279,637, an excess of £28,061 over the previous year's figures, due to the increased quantity of sugar and cotton produced.

The good rainfall of the year 1924 resulted in the production in 1925 of a sugar crop of 15,563 tons, which is above the average of many years, and an increase of 5,367 tons on the crop of 1924.

The total crop of the Island was reaped at the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, the canes being carried by rail and water transport.

During the year the extension of the railway line has been carried on, and it is now possible to transport to the factory, by means of this line, all the canes grown. This is a very valuable asset to the sugar industry of the Island.

The export of sugar for the year 1925 was 15,016 tons crystals, 46 tons muscovado sugar, 38,564 gallons fancy syrup, and 24,906 gallons factory molasses.

The price of sugar dropped from £23 3s. 11d. in 1924 to £14 18s. 2d. in 1925.

The total value of the sugar and molasses, as per report of the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, was £244,166 1s. 7d.

The following extract from the report of the Directors of this factory illustrates the conditions of the year :—

“ The Company has again had a satisfactory year. The price of sugar has fallen heavily, but the reduction in revenue arising therefrom has been made up by a large increase in the quantity of the canes delivered. This increase has brought the output of sugar to 15,563 tons, or 50 per cent. above the previous normal, and is the result of the policy of extending the Company's railway, decided on three years ago. Some help from this step came to our cane supply in 1923 and 1924, but the full effect was not seen then because of the drought prevailing in those years.

A very satisfactory feature, and one that could not have been counted on, is that the factory coped with this large quantity without letting down the quality of its work, which stands as high as any in the West Indies.”

The total area under cotton was about 3,000 acres. In St. Kitts the total produced was 283,716 lb. of lint, or an average of about 190 lb. lint per acre. In Nevis and Anguilla, owing to very adverse climatic conditions, the returns were very low, only 26,539 lb. lint in Nevis, or an average of about 50 lb. lint per acre, and in Anguilla only 1,732 lb. lint, was produced. The total crop produced in the Presidency for the year was 311,987 lb. lint.

The demand for Sea Island cotton was better and the average local price was about 2s. 2d. per lb. lint.

The pink boll worm was again much in evidence towards the close of the season, but the actual loss was not very great in the first picking. The cleaning up of the land and the burning of all old cotton plants is rigidly carried out under the supervision of an Inspector, and the good returns of the year indicate that this pest is well under control.

The cultivation of coconuts in Nevis has not increased, and the disastrous effects of the gale in 1924 is reflected in the decreased export of nuts, the total number exported in 1925 being 2,375, as against 244,175 in 1924.

No epidemic diseases occurred during the year.

The campaign against yaws and syphilis continued. In addition to cases treated in hospitals, 4,592 injections have been given for these diseases.

The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 12·2 per thousand, an increase on the figure for 1924.

The population decreased by 360 owing to emigration.

The rate of infantile mortality for the year under review was :— St. Kitts, 22·0, Nevis, 17·5, and Anguilla, 9·0 per cent., the total for the Presidency being 19·5 per cent.

The Baby Saving League continued its function throughout the year, and has done all that can reasonably be expected with the funds at its command.

The Moogrol treatment of inmates of the Leper Home continued, and five of these had been discharged at the end of the year.

DOMINICA.

The financial year 1925-26 started with a deficit of £15,223 and closed with a deficit of £16,858.

The ordinary revenue for the year was £48,623; being £26 over the estimates, and £470 more than the revenue for the year 1924-25.

Imperial grants of £8,000 on account of deficit, 1924-25, and £5,000 for damage by storm of 5th October, 1924, were received and incorporated in the accounts for the year.

Export duty was short of the estimates by £1,241. This was offset by excesses under Excise Duty, £685, Income Tax, £375, and Passenger Ticket Duty, £323.

The ordinary expenditure for the year was £58,258, or £2,302 over the estimates, and £2,775 more than the expenditure for the year 1924-25.

Of the Imperial grants, £8,000 went to the reduction of the deficits of 1924-25 and 1925-26, and £4,252 of the £5,000 for storm damage was included in the total expenditure, leaving £748 as unexpended balance.

The value of imports during 1925 was £146,204, being £2,625 in excess of the year 1924.

With regard to imports, the duties collected during 1924–25 and 1925–26 are as follows :—

	1924–25.	1925–26.
	£	£
Import Duty other than Alcoholic...	17,420	18,447
Import Duty, Alcoholic	1,461	1,457

The value of exports during 1925 was £125,596, being £45,611 below the 1924 figures, which is due to a considerable amount of the 1923 crop having been shipped in 1924, thus causing the 1924 figures to be abnormal. The 1923 value of exports was only £122,668, whereas 1924 showed a value of £171,257.

AGRICULTURAL.

The Lime Industry.

The export figures for the year 1925 show a decrease of 194,000 barrels of limes when compared with those of the previous year. The difference between the two lots of figures, however, does not mean that there has been a great increase of Withertip disease. The previous year's high figures were accounted for by the large carry-over from 1923.

The crop shipped since 1919, calculated in barrels of fruit and expressed in round numbers, is recorded below :—

1919	...	...	...	402,000
1920	...	...	...	369,000
1921	...	...	...	516,000
1922	...	...	...	400,000
1923	...	...	...	228,000
1924	...	...	...	424,000
1925	...	...	...	230,000

The following table, calculated on the usual basis, shows the disposal of the crop under the various heads :—

<i>Product.</i>	<i>Barrels of fruit.</i>	<i>Approximate percentage of total crop.</i>
Concentrated juice	167,905	72·73
Raw juice	41,853	18·13
Fresh limes	20,218	8·75
Pickled limes	536	·23
Lime juice cordial ...	384	·15

Weather conditions throughout the year were generally favourable, and no severe storms were experienced as occurred in the previous year.

The export of products of the lime industry during 1925 is recorded below :—

<i>Product.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £
Concentrated lime juice ...	111,937 gallons	32,221
Raw lime juice	313,896 „	19,767
Lime juice cordial	1,741 „	196
Fresh limes	20,218 barrels	22,669
Pickled limes	536 „	1,072
Essential oil of limes ...	46,349 lb.	19,785
		<hr/> £95,710 <hr/>

Fifty gallons of concentrated juice represents 75 barrels of lime fruits; $7\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of raw juice represents 1 barrel of lime fruits; 1 ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 266 barrels of lime fruits; 1 ton of citric acid is equivalent to 400 barrels of lime fruits.

Minor Industries.

Coconuts.—During the year 1925 a good deal more interest was taken in the cultivation of this crop, several hundred acres being planted up. Planting is still going on and there is every prospect that several thousand acres will be under cultivation in the near future.

During the year, 225,000 coconuts were shipped, against 154,000 for the previous year, and 64,977 lb. of copra, against 46,173 lb. for 1924.

Ginger.—Following the encouraging report by the Imperial Institute on samples of Dominica white ginger, considerable areas were planted by several interested planters. The crop returns were very satisfactory.

The major portion of the crop was shipped as black ginger.

In the Windward district, owing to the damp conditions, difficulty was experienced in the drying. Experiments in artificial drying were, however, carried out and these proved to be very successful.

Coffee.—A large number of seedlings were again raised by the Agricultural Department, and some 7,000 plants, in addition to several thousand seeds, were distributed locally.

The one type asked for is *Coffea robusta*; there is no demand for any other variety.

Bananas.—The situation at present is still far from satisfactory. It is hoped, however, that some fruit company will be interested enough to let their ships call. Until something definite is known about this, there does not seem to be any prospect of planting on a large scale.

Nutmegs.—Considerable numbers of nutmegs are now being planted, and large orders have already been placed with the Agricultural Department for planting next year.

Vanilla.—Owing to the sudden drop in the price of vanilla, there has been no increase in the area under cultivation and the industry is for the time being at a standstill.

Tobacco.—During the year a Tobacco Growers' Association was formed with a central curing depot in Roseau. At the end of the year 18,298 lb. of leaf had been received. Out of this quantity, 1,043 lb. of cured tobacco were shipped to the English market for trial, but no report on it has so far been received.

A falling-off in the area under cultivation is to be regretted, but it is to be hoped that the Association's success in obtaining a black tobacco, for local sale, which meets with general approval, will stimulate people to again plant this crop.

GENERAL.

In February, 1925, Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., paid his second visit to the Island in connection with the report which he was preparing, by direction of the Secretary of State, on the economic conditions in Dominica. A copy of his report was received towards the end of May, and it was laid before the Legislative Council in July; and the decision of His Majesty's Government regarding financial assistance as a result of the report is anxiously awaited.

In May, 1925, His Honour E. C. Eliot, Esquire, Administrator, proceeded to England on six months' leave. During his absence, His Honour Lt.-Colonel T. R. St.-Johnston, C.M.G., Administrator designate of St. Kitts-Nevis, administered the Government. During his tenure of office Lt.-Colonel St.-Johnston effected certain measures of retrenchment in public expenditure, and put through certain legislation with the object of raising additional revenue. He took up also, among other matters, the question of Poor Relief, and was responsible for providing increased accommodation for the aged and infirm of the Island by transferring the inmates of the Alexandra Cottage Home to the more commodious Quarantine Observation Station, which is now known by the name of the "Home for Aged and Infirm." The new institution was opened on 23rd September, 1925.

On 31st March, 1925, Mr. J. Jones, Curator of the Botanic Gardens and Agricultural Superintendent, retired on pension after 38 years' service. He was succeeded by Mr. F. G. Harcourt, Agricultural Superintendent of Antigua.

On 7th July, 1925, His Excellency Lt.-Colonel the Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony, formally opened the first session of the Legislative Council of Dominica under the new Constitution.

On 31st July, 1925, The Honourable Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., Principal Medical Officer and Medical Officer of the Public Institutions, Senior Official Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, retired on pension after close on 50 years' service in this Presidency.

In February, 1925, Mr. F. C. Clarkson, Colonial Engineer, commenced operations on the Roseau River protection wall, below Bath Estate Works. Some 267 feet of concrete wall was brought to its full height and 120 feet of rubble wall was built, when work had to be stopped on account of the break in the dry weather. The concrete wall is a fine piece of engineering work carried out under considerable difficulties. The portion of completed wall has already proved its usefulness in safeguarding the town of Roseau from further inundations, as in September the Roseau River rose to a height little short of that in October, 1924, and although the flood waters breached the temporary rubble wall erected at the end of the concrete wall the latter withstood the flood and sustained no damage and saved the lower portion of Roseau from again being flooded.

MONTSERRAT.

FINANCE.

The revenue for the financial year 1925-26 was £21,370, being an increase of £4,202 as compared with the previous year.

The increase is partially due to the gift of £2,300 as an Imperial grant for reconstruction of Government property damaged or destroyed by the hurricane of August, 1924.

The expenditure was £21,039, or a decrease of £3,014 as compared with the previous year. The decrease is due to the fact that no large public works of an extraordinary nature were undertaken, although many minor improvements have been carried out.

The excess of assets on the 1st April, 1925, stood at £880.

The public debt of the Presidency stands at £14,100, with a sinking fund amounting to £6,950. The financial year 1925-26 therefore closed with excess of assets amounting to £1,176.

The Presidency is in the healthy position of opening a new financial year, 1st April, 1926, with a reserve fund of £10,000 and a surplus of £1,176.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

The total imports amounted to £59,803, showing an increase of £6,608. This increase is largely due to the dearth of ground provisions during the early part of the year, owing to severe drought, thus causing a considerable increase in the importation of such commodities as flour, corn-meal, salt fish, etc. The importation of flour increased from £9,953 in 1924 to £10,286 in 1925; that of corn-meal from £651 in 1924 to £1,022 during 1925.

Exports amounted to £45,196, showing a decrease of £14,129 as compared with 1924. This decrease is, to all intents and purposes, entirely due to the short shipment of cotton. As against 1,230 bales shipped in 1924, only 923 bales, totalling 342,863 lb. of lint, were shipped during the year 1925; but for the early drought and the ravages of the pink boll worm, the yield would have been nearly double this amount.

Planters, on the whole, have had great difficulty in disposing of their holdings of cotton lint in England; sales have been spasmodic, with prices ranging from 25*d.* to 33*d.* per lb.

Of other articles of produce grown on a small scale, pines have been prominent. During practically the whole of the year the Montserrat Company have been able to place remarkably fine pines on the market from their property in the south of the Island. This Company has also been running, on sound business lines, an oil extraction plant, installed by them in 1924, which turns out first-class cotton meal, cotton cake, cotton seed oil, etc. This Company deserves every encouragement for the energy and enterprise it evinces in all matters of trade and commerce.

Onions, as an industry, are well worthy of development. At Woodlands, in the north, where experiments were carried out in 1924, results gave every promise of this crop being a remunerative one if handled on business and co-operative lines.

The growing of tobacco has received considerable attention, and little doubt is left that marketable tobacco can be grown if a stable market at remunerative prices can be assured. Eight thousand lb. of cured leaf tobacco were exported during the year. The Imperial Tobacco Company have the matter of marketing in hand and a full report is expected from them in the near future.

Agricultural conditions in the early part of the year left much to be desired, owing to the prolonged drought.

MEDICAL.

The new Hospital has more than justified the financial outlay on it. Approximately seventeen patients per month are being admitted, and operations per month average nine. Yaws received special attention and, thanks to the good results accruing, increased numbers of the labouring class voluntarily attend for treatment. The appointment of a Dispenser on the Hospital premises proved a valuable asset; the number of prescriptions made up averaged approximately 900 per month, while the Dispenser proved invaluable as a male attendant in the Hospital and operating theatre.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The Public Works Department were kept busy owing to the after effects of the hurricane of 1924. Considerable work had to be undertaken on the rebuilding and maintenance of roads. Over 14,500 barrels of macadam were laid on the main roads; an equally large percentage had to be provided for by-ways and the streets of Plymouth.

The permanent Government buildings received special attention and required thorough overhauling, due to deterioration and damage caused by the effects of the hurricane.

The ample and exceptionally good water supplies throughout the Island were maintained in good condition and required little attention.

Under the head "Public Works Extraordinary," the following works were completed :—

- (1) Renovation of the Hospital and construction of Dispensary and private wards.
- (2) Laying down of Southern Water Supply at a cost of £1,000.
- (3) Completion of new Government offices.
- (4) Construction of cell for the insane.
- (5) Erection of wireless station.
- (6) Construction of sea wall.

CRIME.

The year 1925 stands out as an exceptionally bad year as far as petty crime is concerned, the daily average of prisoners being 17.49, as compared with 7.8 in the previous year. This is entirely due to the fact that in the northern and Windward parts of the Island famine reigned for some four months owing to a severe drought, thus many petty cases of larceny, which in an ordinary year would have been covered by payments of small fines, resulted in imprisonment owing to scarcity of money. No crime of a serious nature was recorded during the year.

A small chapel was provided during the year within the precincts of the gaol and was greatly appreciated by the prisoners and Prison staff.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Marriages registered during the year showed an increase of four over the year 1924.

Births showed an increase of 134 when compared with 1924. The death-rate worked out at 24·41 per thousand, births exceeding deaths by 107.

GENERAL.

During the year the inter-Island Cricket Tournament took place, the Presidency being fortunate enough to carry off the trophy.

The inter-Island Shooting Competition also took place in the Presidency during the year. Although not fortunate enough to win the trophy, the Island came a good second, Antigua winning the competition by a short head.

As outlined in the report for 1924-25, economy and retrenchment have had to be the keynote throughout the present financial year.

Small as the Presidency is, she has held her own both in finance and sport, and enters on a fresh era full of hope and confidence.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The revenue for the financial year 1925-26 was £12,532, showing an increase of £4,660 as compared with the previous year. This increase is due to the Imperial grant of £3,950 and to payments under certain heads being under-estimated.

The expenditure for the year was £17,419, or an increase of £8,309 when compared with the previous year. Public Works Extraordinary and Police are the heads responsible for the excess. The former refers to expenditure on the new Government buildings amounting to the sum of £6,274 2s. 8d., besides £3,950 from the Imperial grant-in-aid. The excess under Police is due to extra assistance after the hurricane.

	£	s.	d.
The Presidency has a surplus of ...	927	18	8
and a Reserve Fund of ...	10,090	10	10
	<hr/>		
	£11,018	9	6

The value of imports and exports during the calendar year amounted to £34,443 and £10,909, respectively.

ADMINISTRATIVE.

Every effort has been made during the year 1925-26 to reduce expenditure, and a considerable saving has been effected under all heads with the exception of the two already mentioned, viz., Public Works Extraordinary and Police.

EDUCATIONAL.

The expenditure on grant-in-aid to primary schools during the year was £405 6s. 8d. This sum was distributed among eight schools with a total enrolment of 1,104 and an average attendance of 650. There were six prosecutions under the Education Act of 1925.

The Federal Inspector of Schools visited the Presidency in May and November and held the usual examinations.

MEDICAL.

Except for a small outbreak of typhoid fever, confined chiefly to the district of Huntums' Ghaut, Tortola, the Presidency enjoyed its usual freedom from serious epidemic. The spread of the disease in this settlement was due to the complete absence of latrine accommodation, and the disease was stamped out so soon as the people learnt to take the proper sanitary precautions with reference to the disposal of excreta.

During the year surveys of Road Town were made with reference to mosquito nurseries and latrine accommodation, and improvements were made in both matters.

The new Hospital, which was completed and officially opened during the year, is a pleasing structure and of great service to the community. An out-patient clinic has been established, where minor injuries and ailments are treated.

AGRICULTURAL.

The effects of the hurricane of August, 1924, are still apparent throughout the Presidency. The economic trees that escaped total destruction have received a serious set-back and will take a long time to recover. Coconuts, particularly, have suffered and show tardy signs of resuscitation, the nuts produced being scarcely the size of one's fist, as against nuts holding one to one-and-a-half litres of water. The year was one of drought and, in consequence, many of the catch crops suffered. However, the Agricultural Department has been active and has encouraged increased planting of tobacco, with satisfactory results. Cigars made at the station from leaf grown by the peasants have met with a ready sale.

Cotton.—This is a disappointing crop, and the results obtained have been far from satisfactory, due to the boll weevil and prolonged drought, and there appears to be very little inducement to plant in any quantity.

The sugar-cane crop has proved very satisfactory. Many of the peasants have taken advantage of the facilities offered at the Experiment Station for manufacturing muscavado sugar. The by-products—scum, skimming, and molasses—are used locally in making a good quality rum. In spite of the low price of sugar, that manufactured at the Experiment Station fetched a fairly good price, and the whole output is consumed locally.

The cigar and cane industries appear promising and will be given every encouragement and assistance.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The following new buildings were completed during the year :

Government House,
Hospital,
Medical Officers' quarters,

and the Government offices, Curator's quarters, Experiment Station's buildings, and the warehouses have been added to.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1924, No. 1276 1s. 3d.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1924-25, No. 1283 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1316 1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1924, No. 1268 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1924, No. 1272 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1925, No. 1286 1s.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 .. 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 3s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 .. 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1924-25, No. 1284 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1924, No. 1288 1s. 3d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) .. 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial No. 16) .. 2s.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

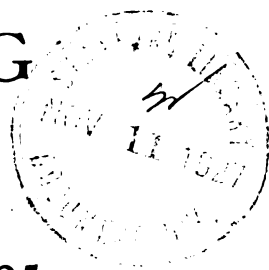
Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1324.

HONG KONG

REPORT FOR 1925.



(For Report for 1923 see No. 1228 (Price 1s. 6d.) and for Report for 1924
see No. 1288 (Price 1s. 3d.)).



Printed in Hong Kong.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh ;
York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast ;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 1s. 6d. Net.

HONG KONG.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1925.

PREFACE.

The Colony of Hong Kong is situated off the south-eastern coast of China between latitude $22^{\circ} 9'$ and $22^{\circ} 17'$ N. and longitude $114^{\circ} 5'$ and $114^{\circ} 18'$ E. The island is about 11 miles long and 2 to 5 miles in breadth, its circumference being about 27 miles and its area $28\frac{3}{4}$ square miles. It consists of an irregular ridge of lofty hills rising to a height of nearly 2,000 feet above sea level, stretching nearly east and west, with few valleys of any extent and little ground available for cultivation.

The island, then desolate and sparsely inhabited by fishermen, was ceded to Great Britain in January, 1841, the cession being confirmed by the Treaty of Nankin in August, 1842; and the charter bears the date 5th April, 1843. All that part of Kowloon peninsula lying South of Kowloon Fort to the northernmost point of Stonecutter's Island together with that island was ceded to Great Britain under the Convention signed at Peking in October, 1860, and under the Convention signed at Peking in June, 1898, the area known as the New Territories including Mirs Bay and Deep Bay was leased to Great Britain by the Government of China for 99 years. The area of the New Territories and Islands is about 345 sq. miles.

Trade gradually developed as China became accustomed to foreign intercourse and it increased greatly owing to the opening of the Suez Canal. It now stands at about 200 million pounds sterling per annum.

Large local banking, dock, steamboat, and insurance companies were established between 1865 and 1872, and their numbers are being continually added to.

The Colony is the centre of an incessant flow of Chinese emigration and immigration.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

1925 was not a happy year for the Colony, though the manner in which it weathered the storm is a matter of self congratulation for all sections of the community.

A strike, political in its origin, and neither provoked by any fault of omission or commission on the part of the local authorities, nor designed to remedy any economic grievance, real or imaginary, commenced about the 20th of June, and in a few days the great majority of household servants, sailors, engineers and workers of all kinds had deserted their posts. The arrangements made by the Government for maintaining essential services, and for ensuring the food supply of the Colony were brought into operation without a hitch.

The Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps was mobilised on the 21st of June, and calls for volunteers as special constables, tramway drivers, crews for the Kowloon ferries etc. met with a ready response. The firm attitude taken up by the Government rapidly restored confidence, and towards the end of July the demobilisation of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps commenced. Places of strikers were filled, workers began to come back until outwardly the Colony was quite normal again. But though the strike had collapsed there followed a boycott of British trade and shipping in South China, instigated by and only maintained through the activities of the strike picket organisation with headquarters in Canton, to the detriment of merchants and business people both British and Chinese, in Hong Kong, Canton, Swatow and the Kwang-Tung province generally.

In order to assist the business community to tide over the difficulties caused by the boycott the Secretary of State for the Colonies in October arranged for a loan to the Hong Kong Government of £3,000,000 to be advanced to merchants. A local committee was specially appointed to advise on the allocation of these funds.

The Stock Exchanges were closed on the outbreak of the strike, and on the 7th July the Legislative Council legalised the postponement of the June Settlement. A Commission was appointed on the 18th August to enquire into the arrangements for dealing in shares locally. The report of the Commission was published on the 19th October.

In the midst of the strike another calamity befell the Colony when on the 18th of July as a result of the heavy rains a retaining wall at Po Hing Fong collapsed on to a block of houses. Seventy-five persons were killed, amongst them Mr. Chau Siu-ki, a former member of the Legislative Council.

At the 16th Congregation of the University of Hong Kong on the 5th January the degree of Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) was conferred on the Honourable Sir Henry Pollock, K.C., and on Mr. John Swire (in absentia).

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 5th March, His Excellency the Governor announced that Hong Kong had offered £250,000 to the Home Government as a contribution towards the Singapore Base.

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, who had practiced as a solicitor in the Colony for over 50 years died on the 28th April.

Mr. C. Montague Ede, for many years General Manager of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, who had served on both the Legislative and Executive Councils and was well known on account of his many philanthropic activities, died on the 22nd May.

His Royal Highness Prince George arrived in Hong Kong on the 28th May to take up his appointment as sub-lieutenant on H.M.S. *Hackins*.

His Excellency the Governor Sir R. E. Stubbs, K.C.M.G., who had postponed his departure from the Colony in June owing to the strike, sailed for England on the 31st October, prior to taking up his new appointment of Governor of Jamaica.

The new Governor, His Excellency Mr. Cecil Clementi, C.M.G., arrived on the 1st November.

The Colonial Secretary, the Honourable Sir Claud Severn, K.B.E., C.M.G., LL.D., left for home on the 14th November, on his retirement from the public service.

The Puisne Judge Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz left Hong Kong on the 18th November to take up his new appointment of Chief Justice, Federated Malay States.

I.—FINANCES.

The revenue for the year amounted to \$23,244,365 being \$1,431,665 more than the estimate and \$965,275 less than the revenue for the previous year.

Compared with the returns for 1924 there were decreases under all the heads except Kowloon-Canton Railway, Licences and Internal Revenue and Miscellaneous Receipts.

The expenditure amounted to a total of \$26,726,428 inclusive of a sum of \$8,112,785 spent on Public Works Extraordinary.

The detailed figures for 1925 are set out in the following statements :—

HEADS OF REVENUE.	\$	c.
Light Dues - - - - -	127,113.64	
Light Dues, Special Assessment - - -	138,330.30	
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise specified - - - - -	17,029,003.58	
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for specific purposes, and Reimbursements in Aid -	1,571,609.93	
Post Office - - - - -	725,245.51	
Kowloon-Canton Railway - - - - -	432,846.80	
Rent of Government Property, Land, and Houses - - - - -	1,232,704.36	
Interest - - - - -	612,786.04	
Miscellaneous Receipts - - - - -	804,483.16	
TOTAL, (Ordinary)- - - - -	\$22,674,123.32	
Land Sales, (Premia on New Leases) - - -	570,242.62	
TOTAL - - - - -	\$23,244,365.94	

The total expenditure brought to account amounted to \$28,266,817 being \$2,196,794 less than the estimate, and \$1,540,389 more than the expenditure in 1924. Compared with the estimates there were increases under 9 heads as against 20 heads where there were decreases. The excess amounting to \$465,771 under Miscellaneous Services was due to :—

	\$	c.
British Empire Exhibition - - - - -	205,197.00	
Language Study Allowances - - - - -	8,692.00	
Motor Car Running Expenses - - - - -	11,008.00	
Other Miscellaneous Services - - - - -	7,483.00	
Rent Allowances, European Subordinate Officers - - - - -	8,970.00	
Rent Allowances, Asiatic Subordinate Officers - - - - -	8,707.00	
Stationery - - - - -	23,873.00	
Transport of Government servants - - -	14,071.00	
Gratuity to Mr. John Duncan - - - - -	9,956.00	
Strike Expenses - - - - -	198,106.00	

Military Expenditure exceeded the estimate by \$92,436 due to increase in revenue. Education Department decreased \$128,468 on account of fewer Building Grants and Lapsing Salaries.

EXPENDITURE.	\$	c.
Governor - - - - -	104,018.69	
Cadet Service - - - - -	307,301.43	
Colonial Secretary's Department and Legis-		
lature - - - - -	69,472.10	
Secretariat for Chinese Affairs - - - - -	29,225.63	
Audit Department - - - - -	50,706.40	
Treasury - - - - -	74,597.49	
Harbour Master's Department - - - - -	833,133.11	
Imports & Exports Department - - - - -	878,166.55	
Royal Observatory - - - - -	41,955.51	
Miscellaneous Services - - - - -	1,170,650.55	
Judicial and Legal Departments - - - - -	338,075.65	
Police Force - - - - -	1,898,822.77	
Fire Brigade - - - - -	333,846.85	
Prison Department - - - - -	462,827.04	
Medical Department - - - - -	623,241.10	
Sanitary Department - - - - -	645,249.62	
Botanical and Forestry Department - - - - -	96,371.78	
Education Department - - - - -	1,019,905.23	
Military Expenditure - - - - -	4,352,856.45	
Public Works Department - - - - -	1,425,010.21	
Do. Recurrent - - - - -	1,574,431.75	
Do. Extraordinary - - - - -	8,638,930.87	
Port Development Department - - - - -	77,500.16	
Port Works Extraordinary - - - - -	638,265.89	
Post Office - - - - -	271,819.66	
Kowloon-Canton Railway - - - - -	762,271.89	
Charge on Account of Public Debt - - - - -	952,346.91	
Pensions - - - - -	516,330.51	
Charitable Services - - - - -	79,486.14	
TOTAL - - - - -	\$28,266,817.94	

The balance to the debit on the year's working was \$5,022,452 and the assets and liabilities account showed on the 31st December a credit balance of \$8,113,482.68.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the five years 1921-1925 :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	\$	\$
1921	17,728,132	15,739,652
1922	22,291,065	18,563,003
1923	24,783,763	21,571,905
1924	24,209,640	26,726,428
1925	23,244,365	28,266,817

The amount of the consolidated loan stands at £1,485,733. Against this there is at credit of the Sinking Fund a sum of £494,783. The Local Loan under Ordinance No. 12 of 1916 amounts to \$3,000,000 and there are the sums of \$1,726,670 and £114,722 at credit of the Sinking Fund.

A new valuation for Assessment was made for the year commencing 1st July, 1925, resulting as follows:—

Increases :—

The City of Victoria	\$2,884,639
The Hill District	43,430
Shaukiwan, Saiwanho and Quarry Bay ...	107,825
Hong Kong Villages	314,000
Kowloon Point	346,276
Yaumati	591,140
Mongkoktsui	472,020
Hunghom and Hok Un	94,650
Kowloon Villages	32,401
New Territories	253,530

The rateable value of the whole Colony amounted to \$27,287,862 having increased by \$5,139,911.

During the period 1916-1925 the assessment of the whole Colony has risen from \$14,282,186 to \$27,287,862, an increase in rateable value of \$13,005,676.

The circulation on the 31st December of notes of the three Banks having authorised issues was as follows:—

Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	\$ 45,332,993
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, & China	14,587,808
Mercantile Bank of India, Limited	1,459,875
	<hr/>
	\$ 61,380,676

The currency of the Colony consists, in addition to the notes of these Banks, of British, Hong Kong, and Mexican Dollars and of subsidiary coin, which continued at par throughout the year.

The total issue of subsidiary coins, less those demonetized, now amounts to \$17,889,370 nominal value, and they were up to the year 1905 readily absorbed at par, large quantities being taken by the neighbouring provinces of China. During 1916 ten cent pieces of the face value of \$5,028,000 were shipped to Calcutta for purposes of demonetization. The discount which prevailed between 1905 and 1916 may be attributed to the immense quantity of similar coin which was minted at Canton as well as to the amount of Hongkong coin minted largely in excess of the needs of the Colony by itself. In 1905 the Hongkong Government ceased to issue any subsidiary coin and in 1906 it began a policy of demonetising all its subsidiary coin received as revenue. This policy

was continuously followed till 1918 except during a brief period in 1911. Coin to the face value of \$26,235,459 has thus been redeemed. The total issue by the Hong Kong Government was of the face value of \$44,099,830.

STATEMENT OF SUBSIDIARY COINS.

Received and redeemed (from 1911)

Blue Book 1911. Amount in circulation.	\$43,999,830
Since received :—Copper coin.	
1919... ..	25,000.00
1923... ..	25,000.00
1924... ..	50,000.00
1925... ..	25,000.00
	<u>125,000</u>
Total Amount put into circulation	<u>\$44,124,830</u>

Less since redeemed :—

1911... ..	5,527,459.04
1912... ..	1,040,000.00
1913... ..	1,040,000.00
1914... ..	5,000,000.00
1915... ..	5,100,000.00
1916... ..	5,028,000.00
1918... ..	500,000.00
1922... ..	3,000,000.00
	<u>26,235,459.04</u>

Total Amount of coin in circulation in 1925... \$17,889,370.96

II.—SHIPPING AND TRADE, INDUSTRIES, FISHERIES, AGRICULTURE, AND LAND.

(a).—SHIPPING.

The total Shipping entering and clearing at Ports in the Colony during the year 1925 amounted to 379,177 vessels of 41,469,584 tons, which compared with the figures of 1924 show a decrease of 384,315 vessels and a decrease of 15,261,493 tons.

Of the above 41,336 vessels of 32,179,053 tons were engaged in Foreign Trade as compared with 57,765 vessels of 38,770,499 tons, in 1924.

Table 1 shows a decrease in British Ocean-going Shipping of 1,381 ships or 26.1 per cent and a decrease of 1,977,932 tons or 16.1 per cent. This decrease in ships and tonnage is due to the recent strike and present boycott in South China.

Foreign Ocean-going vessels have decreased by 1,911 ships and by 2,243,124 tons or 22.3 per cent in numbers and 13.1 per cent in tonnage. This decrease in ships and tonnage is due to the recent strike and present boycott in South China,

British River Steamers have decreased by 3,062 ships with a decrease in tonnage of 1,069,546 tons or 43·0 per cent in numbers and 16·3 per cent in tonnage. This decrease in ships and tonnage is due to the recent strike and present boycott in South China.

Foreign River Steamers show a decrease of 1,052 ships with a decrease in tonnage of 387,469 tons or 45·4 per cent in numbers and 46·1 per cent in tonnage. This decrease in ships and tonnage is due to the recent strike and present boycott in South China.

In Steamships not exceeding 60 tons employed in Foreign trade there is a decrease of 2,445 ships with a decrease in tonnage of 66,336 tons or 31·2 per cent in numbers and 28·7 per cent in tonnage. This decrease in launches and tonnage is due to the recent strike and the present boycott in South China.

A comparison between the years 1924 and 1925 is given in the following table:—

Class of Vessels.	1924.		1925.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British Ocean-going,	5,297	11,844,752	3,916	9,866,820	1,381	1,977,932
Foreign Ocean-going,	7,674	16,030,078	5,763	13,786,954	1,911	2,243,124
British River Steamers,	7,120	6,524,661	4,058	5,455,115	3,062	1,069,546
Foreign River Steamers,	2,318	840,347	1,266	452,878	1,052	387,469
Steamships under 60 tons (Foreign Trade),	7,831	231,833	5,386	165,497	2,445	66,336
Junks, Foreign Trade,	27,525	3,298,828	20,947	2,451,789	6,578	847,039
Total, Foreign Trade,	57,765	38,770,499	41,336	32,179,053	15,429	6,591,446
Steam Launches plying in Water of the Colony,	678,750	16,622,806	310,924	8,050,939	367,826	8,571,867
Junks, Local Trade,	*27,977	*1,337,772	†26,917	†1,239,592	1,060	98,180
Grand Total,	764,492	56,731,077	379,177	41,469,584	384,315	15,261,493
Net Decrease,					384,315	15,261,493

* Including 15,212 Conservancy and Dust Boats of 654,199 tons.

† " 15,890 " " " " of 693,660 "

Junks in foreign trade show a decrease of 6,578 vessels, and a decrease of 847,039 tons or 23·9 per cent in numbers and 25·6 per cent in tonnage. This decrease is due to the recent strike and the present Boycott in South China.

In local trade (*i.e.* between places within the waters of the Colony) there is a decrease in Steam-Launches of 367,826 and a decrease in tonnage of 8,571,867 tons or 54·2 per cent in numbers and 51·5 per cent in tonnage. This decrease in numbers and tonnage is due to the recent strike and the present Boycott in South China.

Junks in local trade show a decrease of 1,060 vessels and a decrease of 98,180 tons or 3·8 per cent in numbers and 7·4 per cent in tonnage. This decrease in vessels is due principally to the recent strike and the present Boycott in South China.

Of vessels of European construction 4,776 ocean steamers, 3,085 river steamers and 2,695 steamships not exceeding 60 tons entered during the year, giving a daily average of 28·9 ships as compared with 41·2 ships in 1924 and 34·7 ships in 1923.

The average tonnage of individual ocean vessels entering the Port has increased from 2,129·8 to 2,472·9 tons, British Ships from 2,234·3 to 2,529·4 tons, foreign ships from 2,057·6 to 2,434·2 tons.

The average tonnage of individual river steamers entering during the year has remained the same at 659·8 tons, British river steamers have increased from 819·5 to 848·4 tons and foreign river steamers have decreased from 340·3 to 332·9 tons.

The actual number of individual ocean-going vessels of European construction during the year 1925 was 1,015 of which 371 were British and 644 Foreign. In 1924 the corresponding figures were 1,123, 416 British and 707 Foreign.

These 1,015 ships measured 3,171,253 tons. They entered 4,776 times and gave a collective tonnage of 11,810,938 tons.

Thus 108 less ships entered 1,708 less times and gave a collective tonnage less by 1,999,036 tons, an average of 1,170·4 tons per entry.

Thus :—

Flag.	Steamers.		No. of times entered.		Total Tonnage.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
British,	416	371	2,650	1,946	5,921,002	4,922,197
Japanese,	269	269	1,324	1,153	3,154,550	2,826,465
U.S.A.,	100	69	275	224	1,423,490	1,370,638
Chinese,	59	65	548	323	453,092	365,450
German,	33	33	79	78	317,416	332,495
Danish,	20	12	73	42	180,513	117,249
Dutch,	53	45	262	244	807,254	754,440
French,	39	26	278	177	535,528	453,272
Italian,	17	13	41	35	154,371	130,895
Panaman,	4	2	33	2	34,843	3,239
Chilean,	8	7	257	126	130,606	71,549
Norwegian,	71	55	387	286	443,067	319,006
Portuguese,	17	9	200	109	91,017	46,166
Russian,	—	1	—	1	—	915
Siamese,	—	1	—	1	—	377
Swedish,	13	7	60	15	120,830	58,915
Spanish,	4	3	17	14	42,395	37,670
Total,	1,123	1,015	6,484	4,776	13,809,974	11,810,938

The Nationalities of the Crews in British and in Foreign Ships were as follows :—

	VESSELS.		BRITISH CREW.		OTHER EURO-PEANS AND AMERICANS.		ASIATICS.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
British, ..	416	371	36,666	32,498	479	1,320	209,151	165,776
Foreign,	707	644	1,708	741	44,841	39,395	226,048	175,884
Total, ...	1,123	1,015	38,374	33,239	45,320	40,715	435,199	341,660

Hence in British ships :—				and in Foreign ships:—			
1924.	1925.			1924.	1925.		
14·89 %	16·28 %	of the crews were British.		00·63 %	00·34 %	of the crews were British.	
00·20 %	00·66 %	of the crews were other Europeans & Americans.		16·45 %	18·24 %	of the crews were other Europeans & Americans.	
84·91 %	83·06 %	of the crews were Asiatics.		82·92 %	81·42 %	of the crews were Asiatics.	
<u>100·00 %</u>	<u>100·00 %</u>			<u>100·00 %</u>	<u>100·00 %</u>		

TRADE.

The number and tonnage of ships of European type of construction carrying cargo for import and transit compared with 1924 were as follows :—

	1924.		1925.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steamers,	6,484	13,809,974	4,776	11,810,938	1,708	1,999,036
River Steamers,	4,715	3,632,438	3,085	2,947,848	1,630	684,590
Sailing Vessels,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total,.....	11,199	17,442,412	7,861	14,758,786	3,338	2,683,626
Decrease.....					<u>3,338</u>	<u>2,683,626</u>

The corresponding figures relating to ships of European type of construction, shipping bunker coal, are as follows :—

EXPORTS.

	1924.		1925.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steamers,	6,487	14,064,856	4,903	11,842,836	...	...	1,584	2,222,020
River Steamers,	4,723	3,732,570	2,239	2,960,145	...	...	2,484	772,425
Sailing Vessels, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total,	11,210	17,797,426	7,142	14,802,981	...	...	4,068	2,994,445
			Nett Decrease, ...		...	...	4,068	2,994,445

	1924.		1925.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Bunker Coal.	No.	Bunker Coal.	No.	Bunker Coal.	No.	Bunker Coal.
Steamers,	6,487	506,520	4,903	355,707	...	...	1,584	150,813
River Steamers,	4,723	90,974	2,239	94,061	...	3,087	2,484	...
Total,	11,210	597,494	7,142	449,768	...	3,087	4,068	150,813
			Nett Decrease, ...		...	...	4,068	147,726

The River Trade compared with 1924 is shown in the following Table :—

Year.	Imports. Tons.	Exports. Tons.	Passengers.
1924.....	493,711	663,802	2,536,768
1925.....	201,128	318,502	1,800,474

The following Tables show the Junk Trade of the Colony for the year 1924 and 1925 :—

IMPORTS.

1924.		1925.	
<i>Junks.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Junks.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
Foreign Trade,.....13,661	1,644,206	10,196	1,209,742
Local Trade,..... 6,206	368,494	5,327	262,051
Total, .....19,867	2,012,700	15,523	1,471,793

<i>Cargo.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Cattle, 1,502 heads,	174
Swine, 31,467 heads,.....	1,850
Earth and Stones,	4,032
General,.....	354,016
Total,.....	360,072

EXPORTS.

1924.		1925.	
<i>Junks.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Junks.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
Foreign Trade,.....13,864	1,654,622	10,751	1,242,047
Local Trade,..... 6,559	315,079	5,700	283,881
Total, .....20,423	1,969,701	16,451	1,525,928

<i>Cargo.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Kerosine, 1,081,449 Cases,	38,529
Rice and Paddy,	284,796
Coal,	131,781
General,.....	360,896
Total,.....	816,002

Emigration and Immigration.

One hundred and forty thousand, five hundred and thirty-four (140,534) emigrants left Hong Kong for various places during the year 1925, (129,859 in 1924). Of these, 85,586 were carried in British ships, and 54,948 in foreign ships.

Ninety-one thousand, six hundred and twenty-two (91,622) returning emigrants were reported to have been brought to Hong Kong from the several places to which they had emigrated either from this colony or from coast ports, as against 130,194 in 1924. Of these, 51,760 arrived in British ships, and 39,862 in foreign ships.

Statement of number of emigrants to Straits Settlements, 1914 to 1925, compared with total Chinese emigration.

	No. of Emigrants to Straits Settlements.	Total No. of Emigrants.
1914	44,974	76,296
1915	41,278	68,275
1916	82,797	117,653
1917	63,292	96,298
1918	8,019	43,830
1919	11,638	59,969
1920	43,935	105,258
1921	87,324	156,011
1922	50,356	98,393
1923	65,584	120,224
1924	75,682	129,859
1925	97,552	140,534

(b.)—INDUSTRIES.

Sugar.—The course of prices during the early part of the year was based on the expectation that the 1924-25 Cuban crop would outturn a figure somewhere between 4,300,000 tons and 4,725,000 tons, with a large part of the Trade being of the opinion that the latter figure would prove to be the maximum. Even when the production in Cuba indicated that 4,725,000 tons would be a minimum, for quite a long period many members of the Sugar industry throughout the world could not get themselves to believe that a record breaking crop as to size was being manufactured in Cuba and thought that a crop of 5 million tons would be an impossibility.

The final outturn of the 1924-25 Cuban crop was 5,125,970 tons, a burden that was quite too heavy for sugar prices to bear, as a result of which the trend in prices of raw sugar was in a downward direction from April to the end of October.

In addition to the raw sugar markets being under the influence of over production practically throughout the year resulting in a steadily declining market, the Hong Kong refineries have again been seriously handicapped by the disturbed political conditions throughout China, the serious strike which started last June and the boycott of British manufactures which necessitated shutting down both refineries entirely for a time.

Competition from Japanese refined sugar also been very keen, but it is reported that the refineries in that Country have agreed amongst themselves to restrict their output, which would indicate that their losses must have been considerable.

Rope Making.—The demand for Manila cordage was fairly good during the first six months of 1925 but it fell off in the second half of the year owing to political troubles in Canton.

(c.)—FISHERIES.

A considerable proportion of the boat population of Hong Kong supports itself by deep-sea fishing, in which pursuit a large number of junks are engaged. The villages of Aberdeen, Stanley, Shaukwan, and also many in the New Territories, are largely dependent upon this industry for their prosperity. Fresh water fish is imported from Canton and the West River. There are oyster beds of considerable value in Deep Bay.

(d.)—FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE, AND BOTANY.

Formation of Pine tree plantations.

Seeds of *Pinus Massoniana* were sown *in situ* on the following places:—Taipo Forestry Reserve 146,500; Red Hill, Tytam, 20,000; and on hills above Shek O Road, 50,000; the total weight of seeds used was 155 lbs.

For the formation of new plantations on grassy slopes and to support earth banks below and above the more recently made roads, seeds of *Pinus Massoniana* were sown broadcast at the following places:—Below and above road from Cheung Sha Wan to Castle Peak, above and below Taipo Road, below Matilda Hospital, between Victoria Gap and Pokfulam, Wanchai Gap, Conduit Road, and Cheung Chau.

Broad-leaved trees planted.

One year old Camphor trees to the number of 4,708 were planted on vacant flat spaces at Tai Wo Po, New Territories.

In the Peak District flowering trees and shrubs to the number of 302 were planted.

The following flowering and shade trees were planted alongside the principal roads in Hong Kong and the New Territories:—*Bauhinia variegata*, variety *alba*, *Aleurites montana*, and *Cinnamomum Camphora*; the total number used was 2,594.

At Cheung Chau a further plantation of one year old camphors was formed among the young Pines

Care of trees in plantations.

Plantations of young trees were cleared of the worst of the undergrowth and creepers. Large number of clumps of *Loranthus* were removed from trees in all parts of the Colony.

Pine tree caterpillars very fortunately made their appearance in small numbers only, the worst attack being made on the young Pines adjoining Kowloon Catchwater; the total weight collected and destroyed was 42 pounds.

Protection from fire.

One new fire-barrier 20 feet in breadth and 1,450 feet in length was made at Taipo Forestry Reserve and another in the vicinity of the wireless station buildings at Cape D'Aguilar, 3,852 feet in length.

Old fire-barriers were cleared of undergrowth and grass; the total length dealt with amounted to 17 miles in the New Territories, 15 miles in Hong Kong and $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles at Fanling.

All forestry paths were cleared of grass and undergrowth and the necessary repairs carried out where landslips had occurred.

Nurseries, Agriculture, &c.

At Little Hong Kong Nursery over 7,000 young Camphor trees were raised in readiness for planting out in the adjoining valley where the old natural forest formerly stood.

Fanling Experimental Garden.

Large numbers of young trees of *Aleurites montana*, *Poinciana regia* and *Cinnamomum Camphora* were raised on spare ground in the garden; these trees were used on the roadsides between Fanling and Shataunkok and Fanling and Castle Peak and from Sheung Shui to Taipo.

Young plants of the Smooth Cayenne Pineapple were distributed in small lots in order to encourage the growing of this fruit.

At Taipo Forestry Reserve a tree nursery was established and numbers of young trees of economic value were raised, they will be planted in the reserve in due course. A service path has been made on the hills over the whole length of the reserve, this will enable the staff to reach and deal with forest fires.

Kowloon Tsai Nurseries.

Stocks of trees were raised for use in plantations and roadside planting throughout the Colony. 5,000 young camphor trees were lifted and basketed at the end of the year for planting in 1926.

The first and second rice crops were good. Pineapples were fair and the crop of the very poor variety of ground nuts was good. Ginger was of good quality but stocks were small; owing to the supply of ginger from Canton being temporarily entirely stopped, all available local stocks were in great demand and fetched good prices. Also, on account of the importation of vegetables from Canton and the coast ports being temporarily stopped, locally grown vegetables were sold for very high prices during the summer months.

Inspection of Nursery Stocks.

Eleven thousand nine hundred and seventy-six cases of bulbs of *Narcissus tazetta* were examined for fungoid diseases and insect pests before being exported to the United States of America. All the bulbs were grown in the vicinity of Amoy and arrived in Hong Kong between July and October. The actual number of bulbs dealt with was 1,450,660. No consignments were detained for reconditioning.

(c).—LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The net amount of premium received from sales of Crown Land exclusive of the New Territories during the year 1925 was \$367,526.77 a decrease of \$1,290,159.83 on preceding year and \$1,434,399.46 less than the average of the previous five years, this average was however abnormal owing to the unusual demand for land during the land boom.

The principal items were \$115,850 for Inland Lot No. 1922, \$34,435 for Rural Building Lot No. 254, and \$45,000 for Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1992.

In the New Territories the net amount received for premium was \$196,284.14, the principal item being \$18,560 for New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 971 and \$14,049 for New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1006.

The total area of land sold or granted during the year was 809 acres and $18\frac{1}{2}$ poles of which 618 acres and $32\frac{1}{2}$ poles were dealt with by the District Officers.

The total area resumed was 478 acres 1 rood $22\frac{3}{4}$ poles including several large areas in Junk Bay.

The number of deeds registered in the Land Office was 4,226 which is less than the figures of the two preceding years; this is due to the abnormal conditions which prevailed in the Colony during the second half of the year.

In the Northern District of the New Territories the demand for land was less than in 1924 following a general slackening of business enterprise, but the effect of the unrest in the neighbouring provinces has been to put nearly every available acre of suitable land under cultivation and private sales of this type of land now realize good prices. In the Southern District the demand for land everywhere both for building and for agriculture was weak.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Sixteen (16) ordinances were passed during 1925, of **which eight were amendments of previous ordinances.**

The most important matters with which these ordinances **dealt** were :—

The Bishop of Victoria Incorporation (No. 4)—The object of this ordinance **was** to incorporate the Bishop of Victoria in order to enable him to hold immovable property in **perpetual success**, and in particular to enable him to hold the site of St. Paul's College, which was being vested in him with the consent of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the present legal owner.

The Sailors Home (No. 5)—The object of this ordinance **was** to create a corporation to be known as "The Trustees of the Sailors Home in Hong Kong," to appoint the **first** trustees, and to vest in the new incorporation the Crown lease of the land on which the present Sailors Home stands.

The "Petites Soeurs des Pauvres, St. Pern, Bretagne" (No. 6)—The object of this ordinance was to incorporate the Petites Soeurs des Pauvres, St. Pern, Bretagne, in order to enable them to hold immovable property in **perpetual succession**.

The Telephone (No. 9)—The object of this ordinance was to provide for the establishment of an improved telephone service in the Colony by means of a concession to a new local Telephone Company to supply telephonic communication within the Colony for a period of fifty years commencing from 1st July, 1925.

The June Settlement (No. 11)—The object of this ordinance was to postpone the June settlement day.

The Registration of United Kingdom Patents (No. 13)—The object of this ordinance was to provide for the registration in Hong Kong of letters patents granted in the United Kingdom.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The European staff was decreased by twelve during the year.

The total number of pupils at schools in the Colony excluding the Police School are :—

	Number of Pupils.		Total.
	English Schools.	Vernacular Schools.	
Government Schools -	3,805	44	3,849
Military Schools - -	148	—	148
Excluded Private Schools	210	—	210
Grant Schools - - -	4,242	1,176	5,418
Controlled Private Schools - - - -	3,283	22,531	25,814
Controlled Private Schools, New Territories - - - -	25	5,215	5,240
Technical Institute - -	580	—	580
Total - - -	12,293	28,966	41,259

The most important schools are *Queen's College* for Chinese, four *District Schools* its feeders, and the *Belilios Public School* for Chinese girls. There is an *Indian School* of growing importance housed in a building presented to the Colony by the late Sir Ellis Kadoorie. *Central School* and *Quarry Bay, Kowloon Junior and Victoria Schools* for children of British parentage have an average attendance of 257. There is also a school for the children of the Peak District with an average attendance of 34. The *Diocesan School and Orphanage* and *St. Joseph's College* are important boys' schools in receipt of an annual grant. The *Italian, French, and St. Mary's Convents*, the *Diocesan Girls' School*, and the *St. Stephen's Girls School* are the most important of the English Grant Schools for girls. There are two Vernacular Normal Schools for Men and Women respectively.

The Hong Kong Technical Institute affords an opportunity for higher education of students who have left school. Instruction was given in 1925 in Building Construction, Mechanics, Chemistry (Practical and Theoretical), Physics, Electricity, Commercial English, French, Shorthand, Book-keeping. Classes for men and women teachers, both "English" and "Vernacular" are a feature of the Institute.

The lecturers are recruited from the members of the medical and educational faculties of the Colony, and from the Department of Public Works, and receive fees for their services. The Institute is furnished with a well equipped chemical laboratory and excellent physical apparatus.

The University of Hong Kong was incorporated under a local University Ordinance, 1911, and opened in 1912. It is a residential University and open to students of both sexes.

The late Sir Hormusjee Mody bore the entire expense of the erection of the main building and additions have been made through the liberality of benefactors of varied nationality and domicile. The latest addition to the buildings is a workshop built out of a contribution from Sir Robert Ho Tung.

The annual income of the University now amounts to about \$420,000 of which about \$145,000 comes from endowment and \$50,000 from Government. Messrs. Butterfield and Swire gave £40,000 to the original endowment fund and subsequently \$100,000 for engineering equipment. The Rockefeller Institution has endowed the University with three chairs in surgery, medicine and obstetrics, the endowment being in each case \$250,000.

The University includes the three Faculties of Medicine, Engineering and Arts. Admission to all faculties is conditional upon passing the matriculation examination of the University or some examination recognised as equivalent thereto.

The Faculty of Medicine provides a six year course of study in the usual pre-medical and medical sciences, leading to the degree of M.B., and B.S. The degrees of M.D., and M.S., may be obtained for post-graduate work. The degrees above mentioned are recognised by the General Medical Council for registration in Great Britain.

The Faculty of Engineering provides a four year course in practical and theoretical engineering, leading to the degree of B.Sc., (Eng.). Fourth year students specialize in civil, in mechanical or in electrical engineering. The degree for post-graduate work is that of M.Sc., (Eng.).

The Faculty of Arts includes departments of pure arts and science, social science, commerce and a department for training teachers. The course is in all cases one of four years and leads to the degree of B.A. The degree for post-graduate work is that of M.A.

With a view to securing the maintenance of the desired standard—which is in all three faculties that of a British University degree—external examiners are, in all faculties, associated with the internal examiners in all annual final examinations. In the Faculty of Engineering, but not in other faculties, degrees with honours are granted, the standard being assessed by special examiners chosen from amongst the external examiners in the University of London.

The degree of LL.D., is granted, *honoris causa*.

The site of the University was given by the Government of Hong Kong. As subsequently enlarged by minor grants and

by purchase, the University estate covers an area of 709,789 sq. ft. The view from the grounds over the harbour is magnificent and the grounds are naturally beautiful.

In the main buildings are housed the chemical and physical laboratories, the University library and portions of the engineering laboratories. They further include the Great Hall, a Senate room and the lecture and class rooms used by the Faculty of Arts and for general purposes.

Special medical buildings include schools of anatomy, physiology, pathology and tropical medicine, erected at the cost of Chinese gentlemen resident in the Colony. Clinical instruction is given at the Government Civil Hospital.

Special engineering buildings include :—

- (a) a power station, generating light and power for the estate, energy being supplied by internal combustion engines of varied types which are available for instructional purposes ;
- (b) a prime movers (steam) and hydraulics laboratory, at present housed in a converted pumping station, formerly the property of the Government ; and
- (c) A workshop, for practical instruction of students.

Electrical machinery (other than the main generating plant), electrical technology, the testing of materials and experimental mechanics are dealt with in the main building.

The larger part of the engineering equipment was the gift of British engineering firms.

Other buildings upon the estate include :—

- (a) the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge
- (b) Staff-quarters
- (c) the resident hostels, and
- (d) the University Union Building.

Unless exempted from residence (such exemption being ordinarily granted on the ground that the student's "manner of life" is not such as is catered for in the hostels), every matriculated student is required to reside either in a University or recognised hostel.

The University hostels are three in number—Lugard Hall, Eliot Hall and May Hall.

Recognised hostels are at present two in number—Morrison Hall, situated immediately above the University grounds and conducted by the London Missionary Society, and St. John's Hall, immediately opposite the front of the University, conducted by the Church Missionary Society.

Each student occupies a separate room or cubicle, and there are the usual common rooms. Each University hostel is in charge of a member of the staff, as resident warden.

No University hostel at present exists for women students—whose right to admission to the University was first recognised in 1921; but some arrangements for the accommodation of a few women students in a rented building have been made by the authorities of St. Stephen's Girls' College, a Church of England girls' school which is near the University. The nuns of a neighbouring Italian convent are also prepared to house a few women students.

The tuition fee is \$300—the hostel fee which includes board and lodging is \$300. A student who is allowed to live in a hostel during a vacation—some have to because of their work, *e.g.* medical students, and others because their homes are too far away—pay at the rate of \$8 a week. When a student joins he is required to deposit caution money to the extent of \$25. and to pay a registration fee of \$5. The annual subscription to the University Union is \$15 and this covers the annual subscription to practically all the athletic clubs. The graduation fee is \$25. Probably about \$1,200 represents the minimum amount which at present prices would cover a student's annual expenses including vacations. It would cost a Chinese student who goes abroad \$2,500 a year at the very least, and this would not cover travelling expenses.

Numerous scholarships are available, including the King Edward VII Scholarships founded by His Majesty's Government. There are also scholarships provided by the Government of Hong Kong, of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, of Kedah and Siam.

The Union is the centre of the social life of the students. It is at once a Club and a centre of athletics. The Union Committee contains certain members of the University teaching staff, but its President and Secretary are undergraduates elected by the undergraduates. The undergraduate members of the Committee are also elected by their fellow students. There is a Union magazine with English and Chinese sections. The editors are students, a member of the teaching staff acting as assistant editor. There are some twenty women students; these women students are all members of the Union.

The students of the University come from Kwangtung, Chilhi, Hankow, Hupeh, Yunnan, Hunan, Shanghai, Peking, Fukien, Singapore, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Kedah, Lahore, Java, Manila, Burma, Siam, Japan, India and Macao. The present enrolment is 300 of whom about 250 are Chinese and 50 non-Chinese. Of the Chinese students some 134 come from Kwangtung and Hong Kong, 50 from the Federated Malay States and 18 from Java. Students from other places outside China number about ten.

The behaviour of the students of the University throughout the troubles connected with the strike and boycott was admirable. It is true that when the strike and boycott began in June, the University was in vacation; but at the time there were more than one hundred students in residence. The University re-opened on its normal date in September. Nearly all the students came back, some at considerable personal risk, and throughout the term which then opened their whole attitude was one of quiet loyalty to the University.

PUBLIC WORKS.

BUILDINGS.

During the year progress as stated was made on the following works :—

Hong Kong.—The New Fire Brigade Station proceeded satisfactorily and was nearing completion by the end of the year. The following works were completed, Senior Officers Quarters, Gough Hill, New Architectural Office and Entrance to New Queen's Pier, the New Sisters Quarters to the Government Civil Hospital were nearly completed and good progress was made on the New King's College and alterations to the Victoria Hospital. New Queen's College site approached completion. Open markets at Whittfield and Quarry Bay were finished.

Kowloon.—The New Hospital was practically finished and partly occupied by the end of the year and married quarters for Police were erected at Mong Kok and Tsim Sha Tsui Police Stations.

New Territories.—The work of piling for the foundations of the new Gaol was completed and married quarters for Police were erected at a number of the police stations. Kowloon City and Shamshuipo Police Stations were finished.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Hong Kong.—Road contouring Wongneichung and Tai Hang Valley, and access road from Stubbs Road to War Memorial Hospital site, made good progress. Main road from Causeway Bay to Quarry Bay made fair progress in places. Road connecting Robinson Road with Conduit Road was begun and good progress made. Improvements were continued on Kennedy, Conduit, Victoria and Shaukiwan Roads.

Kowloon.—Work on the removal of the hill obstruction at the junction of Nathan and Coronation Roads made good progress. Waterloo Road Extension North and East, Tokawan Road and Chatham Road Extension, Mongkok-Kowloon City Road made good progress. Several streets in Yaumati were raised to new levels.

New Territories.—Widening of Fan Ling-Au Ha Gap Road to 20 ft. and extension to Shataukok made good progress. Widening of bridges on Castle Peak-Fan Ling Road to 20 ft. put in hand. Improvements to the Coastal Road and the metalling and tar painting of New Territories roads were continued, and several bridges were widened.

DRAINAGE.

Hong Kong.—A 7·6 concrete culvert from Leighton Hill Road to Praya was finished.

Kowloon.—The Extension of the Mongkoktsui nullah to the Old Kowloon Boundary was completed. Ma Tau Chung nullah made slow progress.

New Territories—The Nan Chang Street nullah from the water front to the Tai Po Road was completed and the Extension of the Mongkoktsui Nullah from the old Kowloon Boundary to the Kowloon Range of hills progressed satisfactorily.

WATER WORKS.

Hong Kong.—Both tiers of beds at the Eastern Filter Beds were completed. The walls and invert of the east half of the Service Reservoir were approaching completion.

The Engine & Boiler House Extension at Tytam Tuk was completed, whilst the erection of the new engine and boiler was well advanced.

Stanley Mound East Catchwater was practically completed, whilst Stanley Mound West and Jardine's Lookout Catchwaters were completed.

5,500 ft. of 15" C. I. main and 2,350 ft. of 12" main were laid during the year in Queen's Road and Praya East.

A Contract was let to the Patterson Engineering Co. for the supply and erection of Fast Gravity Filtration Plant at Bowen Road.

The Eastern Pumping Scheme has been abandoned for the time being.

Kowloon.—Improvements and renewals to the distributing system were continued.

The construction of 4 additional filter beds at Lai Chi Kok Pass was almost completed.

The extension of the Beacon Hill Catchwater was practically completed.

Shek Li Pui Reservoir was completed and in use during the latter part of the year. Only a few minor works remain to be done.

Shing Mun Valley Scheme.—The Access Road from Tsun Wan to Pineapple Pass was nearly completed.

The temporary intake and conduit together with the north conduit were completed.

1,043 ft. of tunnel was driven under Smugglers' Ridge and 2,470 ft. under Golden Hill. The south conduit was completed.

The Reception Reservoir contract was approximately half completed by the end of the year.

A contract was let to the Petterson Engineering Co. for the supply and erection of fast gravity filtration plant of 5 million gallons per day capacity.

By the end of the year the first consignments of 24" diameter steel pipes had arrived from England.

Pipers Hill Service Reservoir was satisfactorily completed and tested.

A contract for the cross harbour pipe was prepared, but commencement of the work has been postponed.

RECLAMATIONS.

Hong Kong.—Praya East, about 90 acres, of which about 44 acres were reclaimed by the end of the year.

Quarry Bay, 3½ acres, about half of the reclamation completed.

North Point, private scheme, about 20 acres, approximately 2/3rd of the scheme completed.

Kowloon.—Shamshuipo Reclamation comprising an area of 66 acres, almost completed.

Taikoktsui Reclamation, total area 54 acres approximately, of which 40 acres were reclaimed at end of year.

Poor progress was made with the Kai Tack reclamation which is a private undertaking near Kowloon City.

Satisfactory progress was made with the reclamation at Kowloon Bay West.

New Territories.—Reclamations undertaken at Laichikok by the Standard Oil Co. and the Kailan Mining Administration had been completed at the end of year.

PIERS.

Hong Kong.—Queen's Pier was completed and opened to the public.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Good progress was made with the levelling of the Kowloon Tong Development Scheme areas approximately 27 acres being handed over to the Company during the year.

The total amount expended on Public Works Extraordinary was \$8,638,930.87 and on annually recurrent works \$1,574,431.75.

RAILWAY.

The extension to workshops started in June, 1924, was completed in April and handed over to the Locomotive Department. The blacksmiths moved into the new portion of the building, and the old smithshop was overhauled and converted into a Store for tools.

The 5-cwt. pneumatic hammer, punching and shearing machine, power hack saw, electric motors and shafting were removed from the old Shop and re-erected.

The 360-ton wheel press was moved to a more convenient position in the new extension, and four other machines, 18" shaper, power screwing machine, axle-box boring machine and air compressor were re-arranged in more convenient places.

Four tracks on the site of the proposed extension of the carriage shed were extended for the full length of 500 feet to accommodate stock.

Two three-storied tenement houses adjoining the Locomotive Yard, known as 70 and 72 Chatham Road, were taken over and reconditioned as quarters for workshops staff.

A small area of Railway land measuring 80 feet by 60 feet, situated in the Locomotive Yard at Hunghom, was transferred to the Public Works Department for the purpose of building a permanent workshop and quarters for electricians.

The materials for the new water tank and tower at Kowloon arrived in May and a contract was entered into for erection. This work was nearly completed by the close of the year.

The materials for the extension to the awnings over the main platform at Kowloon arrived from England and Canada in August and September, and erection was commenced in December.

The bridge at the second mile, known as No. 4 Bridge and referred to in last year's report, was completed in May and traffic diverted back over the eastern spans.

The laying of underground cables in substitution for aerial telephone wires was continued back from Taiipo at Mile 13 to Mile 9. This work is being carried out by the Public Works Department.

At Lowu the sidings were extended for about 300 feet to facilitate shunting operations.

Considerable damage to the Railway was caused by rainstorms in July which culminated in a heavy downpour on the 16th when 13.48 inches of rain were registered. A 3-foot culvert at Yaumati Station was choked up by debris from private works on the hillside above, and the line flooded with slurry. Later on a heavy slip took place and buried both tracks to a height of four or five feet, thus interrupting traffic. At Mile 3½, private works caused a diversion of the flood waters which cut away the railway bank for some hundred yards, and all traffic had to change trains at either side of the breach for two days.

The following new machines were installed in the Carpenters Shop:—

- (i) Planing and moulding machine.
- (ii) Band saw and chain mortising machine.

During the year most of the machines in the Workshops were given a general overhaul.

The motor repair shop has been kept extremely busy throughout the year, overhauling motor vehicles belonging to other Government Departments.

The Workshops were very greatly handicapped during the middle of the year by the strike. All the No. 1's however remained and with their assistance the train service was maintained. During the greater part of a month, running repairs of all kinds were done by these few men.

The year 1925 has again proved an unfortunate one for the Railway, directly attributable to the conditions obtaining in the Kwangtung Province, the Through and Joint Sectional Traffic being suspended throughout the year with the exception of 166 Slow Through trains. The Through Slow Service suspended in 1924 was resumed on March 17th. The Chinese Section passenger stock however was found to be in such a bad state of repair, that it was considered inadvisable to allow it to run over the British Section as had been done in the past, and passengers were therefore conveyed to and from the border in stock provided by the British Section.

The through service was again suspended from June 1st to the 17th.

On Sunday, June 21st, a general strike of Chinese in the Colony commenced and through traffic was again interrupted and was not resumed during the year. Between June 23rd and July 11th there was a general exodus of strikers from the Colony, 24,851 passengers being carried to the border.

A ballast train for the use of the Public Works Department was provided on the Branch Line for 100 nights commencing on June 22nd and terminating on the 27th October, in connection with the construction of the new road to Sha Tau Kok

The Railway Division of St. John's Ambulance Brigade, under the direction of Traffic Inspector Winyard, has proved itself most efficient. There are now thirty-three members, all recruited from the Traffic Department. A First Aid Box is kept at each Station and also on each train, and expert attendance and suitable dressings are available in cases of accident.

The Division again won the "Holyoak" Attendance Cup.

As mentioned in my last Report, it was decided that this Railway should adopt the system of accounts employed on all Chinese Government Railways. The recasting from 1906 to date has now been completed, and for the first time the accounts are presented in accordance with the Classification of Revenue and Expenditure as prescribed by the Ministry of Communications.

I should like to place on record my appreciation of the excellent manner in which the work has been carried out and at the same time to express my indebtedness to Mr. Harris, Chief Accountant of the Chinese Section for his assistance and advice.

At the end of 1916 the Construction Account was closed, and thereafter estimates of expenditure were framed under two main heads, viz, Working Expenses and Special Expenditure. Special Expenditure for the years 1917 to 1924 has now been allocated as between Capital and Revenue, and the portion properly chargeable to Capital is for the first time included in the Capital Account, and the balance, viz., \$213,115.84 chargeable to Revenue is carried to Profit and Loss Account. The Special Expenditure for the year 1925 has been allocated between Capital and Revenue, and the portion chargeable to Capital included in the Capital Account while the Revenue items are debited to Operating Expenses.

The Local passenger receipts amounted to \$332,268.31, as against \$332,942.68 for the previous year, and the goods receipts were \$21,762.64, or \$2,286.92 less than the previous year.

The Gross Receipts for the year were \$430,578.31, as against \$420,186.15 for 1924, an increase of \$10,392.16.

The operating expenses amounted to \$529,901.49. The disbursements against the estimate of ordinary working expenses was \$504,422.56 and the portion of Special Expenditure properly chargeable to Revenue \$14,744.04. Further items amounting to \$10,734.89 are included in respect of services rendered and materials supplied by Government departments, also payments by Railway during the year not provided for in the Railway Estimates but charged to Government votes. The working expenses exceeded the Revenue by \$99,323.18.

Through and Joint Sectional passengers carried were as follows:—

	1923.	1924.	1925.
Passengers booked at Stations in British Section to Stations in China including Lowu.....	250,719	168,734	16,224*
Passengers booked at Stations in China including Lowu to Stations in British Territory	249,152	157,115	16,316*

The Local Passengers carried were as follows:—

	1923.	1924.	1925.
Main Line	951,001	1,177,234	1,083,821
Fanling Branch Line.....	73,838	82,505	58,419

* Lowu bookings not included as formerly.

VI.—GOVERNMENT AND AIDED INSTITUTIONS.

(a)—HOSPITALS.

Government Hospitals consist of the Civil Hospital, to which is attached an isolated Maternity Hospital, the Victoria Hospital for Women and Children, and the Kennedy Town Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The Civil Hospital contains 198 beds in 23 wards. 5,774 in-patients and 30,889 out-patients were treated during 1925 as against 6,106 and 31,347 respectively in 1924. 1,140 cases of malarial fever were admitted as against 1,020 in 1924 and 647 in 1923. The total cases of malaria for all Government Hospitals and the Tung Wa Hospital shows an increase of 40 cases as compared with the year 1924. The Maternity Hospital contains 9 beds for Europeans, plus 3 extra beds, and 8 for Asiatics. 668 confinements occurred during the year as against 789 in 1924. The Victoria Hospital at the Peak contains 41 beds, and during 1925, 320 patients were under treatment there. At Kennedy Town Hospital, which contains 26 beds, 12 cases were treated in 1925, being infectious.

(b.)—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The Asylum is under the direction of the Superintendent of the Civil Hospital. European and Chinese patients are separated, the European portion containing 14 beds in separate wards and the Chinese portion 16 beds. 308 patients of all races were treated during 1925 and there was 9 deaths.

(c.)—THE TUNG WA AND OTHER CHINESE HOSPITALS.

The Tung Wa Hospital, opened in 1872, is mainly supported by the voluntary subscriptions of Chinese, but receives an annual grant of \$8,000 from the Government. Only Chinese are treated in this institution. Various other services not appertaining to a hospital are performed by the institution, such as the free burial of the poor, the repatriation of destitutes, the maintenance of free vernacular schools, and the organisation of charitable relief in emergencies; Chinese as well as European methods of treatment are employed in accordance with the wishes expressed by the patients or their friends. Over half the number are now treated by Western methods. The hospital is managed by a committee of Chinese gentlemen annually elected, their appointment being submitted to the Governor for confirmation. It is under the supervision of a visiting physician, who is a member of the Medical Department, whilst two Chinese house surgeons, trained in Western medicine, are members of the hospital staff. There are 450 beds in the buildings, and 9,133 patients were accommodated during 1925.

The Tung Wa also maintain a branch hospital for small-pox cases (Chinese only) at Kennedy Town. It contains 70 beds and during 1925, 23 cases were treated.

The Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals are managed and controlled by a General Committee consisting of subscribers and supporters of these institutions, and an Executive Committee consisting of representatives of the London Missionary Society and members of the General Committee.

The Affiliated Hospitals at present consist of the Alice Memorial Hospital Dispensary, temporarily replacing the Alice Memorial Hospital which was sold in 1921, the Nethersole Hospital, opened in 1893, the Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital opened in 1904, and the Ho Miu Ling Hospital opened in 1906.

The number of Inpatients in 1925 was 1,402, and the number of Outpatients, 81,715.

The total Expenditure was \$60,360.51. The number of Labours in the Maternity Hospital in 1925 was 420. The Government grant to these Hospitals is \$2,000.00 and a special grant is made to the Maternity Hospital of \$300.00

The Kwong Wa Hospital for Chinese in the Kowloon Peninsula was opened on the 9th October, 1911. It occupies a site having an area of three acres and provides accommodation for 215 patients. The existing buildings contain 215 beds and 6,862 patients were accommodated during 1925. The collection of subscriptions and the supervision of the building were undertaken by a special committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs. The hospital received a grant of \$33,500 in 1925 from the Government.

VII.—INSTITUTIONS NOT SUPPORTED BY GOVERNMENT.

One of the most important institutions in the Colony not supported by the Government is the Matilda Hospital, which stands on a commanding site of nearly three acres at Mount Kellet in the Hill District. An account of this hospital will be found in the report for 1917.

Among institutions recognised and encouraged, but not to any considerable extent supported by Government may be mentioned the Pó Leung Kuk, the Eyre Refuge, the City Hall, and the Chinese Public Dispensaries.

The Pó Leung Kuk is a Chinese Society founded in 1878 for the suppression of kidnapping and traffic in human beings. It was incorporated in 1893 and is presided over by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs and not more than twelve directors nominated by the Governor. The actual management is entrusted to a committee elected annually by the members of the Society. The Society's buildings have been declared a Refuge under the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance, and almost all women and girls detained by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs under that Ordinance are sent to the Pó Leung Kuk. During 1925 the number of persons admitted was 297 and at the close of the year 62 remained under the care of the Society. The inmates are under the immediate charge of a Chinese matron, and instruction is given them by the matron and a Chinese teacher in elementary subjects and in needlework.

The Eyre Diocesan Refuge is an institution, under mission auspices, founded for rescue work among the Chinese. It was housed in the Belilios Reformatory up to the outbreak of war, but the work is at present carried on at Kowloon City. A small grant is made by the Government.

The City Hall receives an annual grant of \$1,200 from Government. It contains a theatre, some large rooms which are used for balls, meetings, concerts, etc., a museum in which are some very fair specimens, and a large reference and lending library, to which new volumes are added from time to time, as funds will allow. The building was erected in 1866-9 by subscription.

Small grants are also given to the Italian Convent, the French Convent, (both of which take in and tend abandoned or sick infants), the West Point Orphanage, the Seamen's Hospital, and other charitable institutions.

The Chinese Public Dispensaries are institutions maintained in order to provide the Chinese with the services, of doctors, whose certificates will be accepted by the Registrar of Deaths, and with the services of interpreters, who can assist the inmates of houses, where a case of infectious disease has occurred. Coolies are engaged and ambulances and dead vans provided in order to remove cases of infectious disease to the Infectious Diseases Hospital and dead bodies to the Mortuary. The Dispensaries receive sick infants and sent them to one or other of the Convents and arrange for the burial of dead infants. Free advice and medicine are given and patients are attended at their houses. There are eight Dispensaries in existence. The total cost of maintenance was \$77,375 for the year 1925. The Government makes an annual grant of \$12,000, and the rest of the cost is defrayed by voluntary subscription. The Dispensaries are conducted by committees under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

VIII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The total of all cases reported to the Police was 16,783 being a decrease of 789 or 4·4 per cent. as compared with 1924. There was in 1925 a decrease in serious offences of 738 or 16·4 per cent. as compared with the previous year. The number of serious offences reported was 365 below the average of the quinquennial period commencing with the year 1921. The number of minor offences reported shows a decrease of 48 as compared with 1924 and was 2,202 over the average of the quinquennial period.

The total strength of the Police Force in 1925 was Europeans 246, Indians 564, Chinese 945 making a total of 1,755 exclusive of the six superior officers and staff of clerks and coolies. These figures include police paid for by the railway and other Government departments. Of this force 15 Europeans, 39 Indians, and 153 Chinese were stationed in the New Territories during the year.

The District Watchmen Force, numbering 122, to which the Government contributes \$2,000 per annum, was well supported by the Chinese during the year. These watchmen patrol the streets in the Chinese quarter of the City. They are placed on police beats and are supervised by the European police on section patrol. A detective branch of the force has done useful work under the supervision of a European Inspector.

The total number of persons committed to Victoria Gaol was 6,339 as compared with 7,382 in 1924. Of these 613 were committed for criminal offences against 1,644 in 1924. Of committals for noncriminal offences there were 51 more for hawking without a licence, and 24 less for unlawfully cutting trees, than in 1924.

The daily average of prisoners confined in the Gaol was 1,116 the average for 1924 being 1,066, and the highest previous average being 861 in 1923. The percentage of prisoners to population, according to the daily average of the former and the estimated number of the latter, was 0·13. The average percentage for the last ten years was 0·32. Owing, however, to the large floating population, which is constantly moving between the Colony and Chinese Territory, the percentage of crime to population does not convey an accurate idea of the comparative criminality of the residents of the Colony. The Victoria Gaol has accommodation for 700 prisoners including patients in Hospital. The Branch Prison at Laichikok has accommodation for 350 prisoners in association.

The prison discipline was satisfactory, the average of punishments per prisoner being 0·71 as compared with 0·43 in 1924 and 0·32 in 1923.

Long sentence prisoners serving two years and upwards are taught useful trades, including printing, book-binding, tin-smithing, mat-making, tailoring, carpentering, etc. The profit on the work done was \$122,221·20 as against \$121,664·20 in 1924. A sum of \$3,758 was received and credited to Government for non-Government work as against \$4,427 in 1924.

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(a.)—POPULATION.

The civil population of the Colony, according to the census taken on April 24th, 1921, was 625,166, of whom 83,163 reside in the New Territories and in New Kowloon; at the census taken in 1911 it was 456,739 with 104,287 as the figure for the New Territories and New Kowloon. The estimated total population at the middle of the year under review was 874,420, but this includes the New Territories; and, as the birth and death figures given below do not include those from this area (with the exception of New Kowloon), the population for the purposes of calculating these rates is estimated at 786,920, of whom 16,500 were non-Chinese.

The distribution of population estimated to the middle of 1925 was as follows:—

Non-Chinese Civil Community,		16,500
Chinese Population.	City of Victoria (including Peak),	465,000
	Villages of Hong Kong,	33,040
	Kowloon (including New Kowloon),	200,000
	New Territories,	87,500
	Population afloat,	72,380
Total Chinese Population,		857,920
Total Civil Population,		874,420

(b.)—PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The birth-rate for the year was 4·25* per 1,000 among the Chinese community and 22·6 per 1,000 among the non-Chinese community, as compared with 5·47 and 18·25 for 1924.

The death-rate for the year was 19·12 per 1,000 among the Chinese community and 14·6 among the non-Chinese civil community, as compared with 21·9 and 15·68 for 1924.

The deaths from Malaria numbered 702 (707 in 1924). The deaths of Chinese from this cause in the City of Victoria numbered 200 out of a population of 465,000 or a rate of 0·43 per 1,000 per annum.

The deaths from Plague numbered nil. The last deaths from Plague occurred in 1923.

Small-pox deaths numbered 41 of which all were Chinese.

* This figure is wholly misleading as it is impossible to register more than a portion of the births.

There were 4,290 deaths from respiratory diseases other than Pulmonary Tuberculosis as compared with 4,319 in 1924, and 31 of these were among the Non-Chinese community. Pulmonary Tuberculosis claimed 1,859 Chinese and 31 non-Chinese victims whilst other forms of Tuberculosis represent an additional 401 deaths making a total of 2,358 or 15.28 per cent. of the total deaths among the community.

Beri-beri was responsible for 1,744 deaths, as compared with 1,502 during 1924 and 1,270 in 1923.

A tabular statement of the principal causes of death is appended.

(c.)—CLIMATE.

The climate of Victoria is similar in its broad features to that of Kowloon and the New Territories, but at the higher levels, from 1,400 to 1,800 feet above sea level the temperature is on the average about 3° lower than at the Observatory, Kowloon, in the winter, and 8° lower in the summer. The humidity is usually greater than in Kowloon and approaches saturation for several days at a time during March and April when mist is very prevalent. In summer the city of Victoria, and the rising terraces behind it, derive little or no benefit from the SW monsoon, being sheltered by steep hills from SE to SW. In winter it is exposed to the NE monsoon, which occasionally blows along the harbour through Lyemun Pass with considerable violence. On the other hand the south-west side of the Island is protected from the NE monsoon in winter and enjoys the benefit of the SW monsoon in summer.

For further particulars see Appendix F.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The total revenue from the postal service in 1925 amounted to \$644,066.67 being \$110,861.59 less than that collected in 1924. The net expenditure amounted to \$284,419.66. The balance of revenue over expenditure amounted to \$359,647.01.

The revenue collected in 1925 from radio-telegrams amounted to \$80,342.69 being \$10,846.28 more than that collected in 1924. Advices of vessels signalled at the lighthouses yielded \$806.20 and semaphore messages \$29.95 making a total of \$81,178.84 for the telegraph service. The expenditure amounted to \$71,741.66. The number of radio-telegrams forwarded during the year was 10,524 consisting of 122,914 words, and 13,180 were received consisting of 175,726 words.

W. T. SOUTHRN,
Colonial Secretary.

28th July 1925.

Table I.—DEATHS

		Scarlet Fever.	Blackwater Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Yellow Fever.	Rabies (Hydrophobia.)	Dengue Fever.	Paratyphoid Fever.	Influenza.	Small-pox.	Measles.
British and Foreign Community,	Civil, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
	Victoria and Peak, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	15	3
Chinese Community,	Harbour, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...
	Kowloon, .....	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	15	24	...
	Shaukiwan, Land, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Shaukiwan, Boat .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Aberdeen, Land ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Aberdeen, Boat ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Stanley, Land.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Stanley, Boat .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, 1925, .....		...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	45	41	3
" 1924, .....		...	1	...	1	...	1	...	3	52	795	14

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1924, No. 1276 1s. 3d.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1924, No. 1282 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 .. 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 .. 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 .. 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1924, No. 1268 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1924, No. 1272 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1925, No. 1286 1s.	SIERRA LEONE, 1924, No. 1275 .. 1s. 3d.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1924, No. 1278 .. 9d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 .. 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 .. 2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1924, No. 1265 6s.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1924-25, No. 1284 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1924, No. 1288 1s. 3d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1924. (Appendices to the Report. Colonial, No. 17) 1s.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) .. 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15) .. 2s.
--

All prices are net. Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbook, etc

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1325.

REPORT

OF THE



ET Out
//

COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE, 1926.

(For previous published Reports see No. 828—Cd. 7622—19, price 2½d.,
No. 1230, price 2s. 6d., and No. 1286, price 1s. 0d.)



LONDON :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses :

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh ;

York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast ;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 1s. 3d. Net.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
British Honduras, 1924-25	4
Ceylon, 1924-25	5
Cyprus, 1924-25	8
Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, 1924	12
Gold Coast, 1924-25	15
Hong Kong, 1924	17
Jamaica, 1924	19
Nigeria, 1924-25	20
Northern Rhodesia, 1924-25	25
Nyasaland Protectorate, 1924-25	27
Sudan, 1924-25	28
Trinidad and Tobago, 1924	33
Uganda, 1924	35

No. 1325.

COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE.
REPORT, 1926.

The period reviewed varies according to whether the reports received from the Dependencies concerned cover the year ending 31st December, 1924, or 31st March, 1925.

The following Report of the Colonial Survey Committee has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

W. C. BOTTOMLEY.

E. M. JACK,

Colonel Commandant, D.G.O.S.

H. S. L. WINTERBOTHAM,

Colonel, General Staff.

H. P. DOUGLAS,

*Captain, R.N., & Hydrographer
of the Navy.*

G. T. McCaw }
P. LIESCHING } Secretaries.

December, 1926.

British Honduras, 1924-25.

Governor	...	...	Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G.
Surveyor-General	...	...	Mr. F. W. Brunton.

Staff.

The staff has been reduced by one surveyor.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Expenditure.		Revenue.	
	£		£
Personal Emoluments ...	3,430	Royalties on Mahogany	5,335
Travelling Expenses ...	390	Other Royalties ...	145
Expenses of Surveys ...	610	Petty Licences ...	75
Instruments and Materials	70	Rent of Crown Lands	2,470
Collection of Rents ...	35	Sale " "	780
Miscellaneous ...	60	Miscellaneous ...	135
		Royalties to Forest Department ...	1,240
Total Expenditure ...	£4,595	Total Revenue	£10,180

These figures represent a decrease of £505 in the expenditure and an increase of £1,320 in the revenue in comparison with last year.

Cadastral Survey.

Traverses were made of portions of the Stann, Plantation and Big Creeks and the Mullins, Sittee, Manatee, and Monkey rivers—total length, 11½ miles. Road and other traverses, totalling 37 miles, were run in the Belize, Stann Creek, Corozal and Toledo Districts.

Boundary Surveys.—The boundary of Belize, 2½ miles long, was surveyed for the new Property Tax Law. The boundary between Crown Lands and those of the Belize Estate and Produce Company was opened and demarcated, involving 12½ miles of traverse (included in the 37 miles above), and 17 miles of boundary line.

Allotments, etc.—Eighteen parcels of land, 494 acres in all, were measured in the Corozal, Stann Creek and Toledo Districts, and 60 town lots were laid out at Belize, St. George's Caye and Mullins River.

Levelling.

About 200 acres in the vicinity of Belize were levelled for an improvement scheme.

Plans and Applications.

About 160 plans and tracings were prepared for surveys and grants. Six hundred and seventy applications were considered, about 100 flats granted, 50 leases cancelled and about 300 petty licences issued.

Trigonometrical Survey.

It is believed that this important work, which has been the subject of considerable discussion, has now been begun.

Ceylon, 1924-25.

Governor	...	...	...	Sir W. H. Manning, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.
Surveyor-General	...	...	...	Mr. A. J. Wickwar, F.R.G.S.
Deputy Surveyor-General	...	...	...	Mr. A. H. G. Dawson.
Assistant Surveyor-General	...	...	...	Mr. C. R. Lundie, A.M.I.C.E.
Superintendent of Observa- tory.				Mr. A. J. Bamford, B.A.

Staff.

Field—

- 12 Superintendents of Surveys.
- 40 Assistant Superintendents of Surveys.
- 2 Astronomers.
- 280 Grade Surveyors.
- 3 Junior Technical Assistants (Observatory).

Office—

- 4 Assistant Superintendents (Headquarters).
- 1 Superintendent of Process & Lithography.
- 1 Superintendent of Instruments.
- 1 Accountant.
- 420 Clerks and Draughtsmen.

Cost of Department.

No figures available.

Topography.

By the completion of 3,000 square miles of contouring, mainly in the Northern Province, the topographical revision, commenced in 1897, has been completed; the value of this achievement must not be minimised.

Though the topographical survey was recommended by Sir T. Holdich in 1897, apparently very little was executed until the visit of Major Hills in 1907. If the war years be included (11,500 square miles were contoured between 1916 and 1923), the average annual rate since 1907 has been 1,500 miles per annum, say $5\frac{1}{2}$ square miles per working day. But this rate has been very variable, 8,200 square miles, say 30 square miles per working day, having been contoured during the year 1923-24. Since there is no information as to the number of topographers employed, the exact nature of their work and the cost rates, the figures above are of no value as a basis for comparative estimates.

Cartography.

The topography is being reproduced on the scale of 1 inch/1 mile. The contoured maps consist of a small-sheet series, of which 86 sheets are published out of a total of 270; and a new large-sheet series of 75 sheets in all, of which 31 are published. Thus, of the cartography about 35 per cent. has been completed. Some statement is obviously required as to the rate of progress of reproduction, present and anticipated, since the cartography is a long way behind the field work. It is not clear to the Committee that a policy has been adopted as to the periodic revision in the field and the issue of subsequent new editions of the sheets.

Triangulation.

The triangulation dates back to 1857, when the Negombo base, over 5 miles in length, was measured by General Gosset and Mr. J. Winzer. In 1859, a check base was measured by Mr. J. J. Grinlinton at Batticaloa, in length about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. After adjustment of the intervening chain of 130 miles of triangulation, the former base reproduced itself on the latter to 1/13,270. A connection was also made at Delft Island on the north with the G.T.S. of India, the error of closure here being 1/13,450.

The triangular closures are indicated in the following table :—

<i>Closures.</i>	<i>Number of Triangles.</i>	<i>Percentage of Whole.</i>	<i>Average Error of Closure. 4"·2</i>
" "			
0 to 3	24	44	Mean square error of observed angle (Ferrero's formula) $\pm 2''\cdot95$.
3 „ 6	15	28	
6 „ 9	11	20	
9 „ 12	4	8	
Total ...	54	100	

The adjustment of the triangulation, including the base equations, was made by a roughly approximate method, devised by Mr. A. E. Wackrill, who collected the observations and reduced them to order in 1893.

It is thus apparent that the trigonometrical survey of Ceylon is at best of a secondary order of accuracy.

Since the Waste Lands Ordinance of 1898, the additional triangulation has been mainly for Block Survey (see the Annual Report of the Colonial Survey Committee, 1908*); but the Holdich recommendation that the old triangulation should be improved and recomputed has never been carried into execution. It is the opinion of the Committee that any new attempt merely to patch up the old work would be a waste of labour.

Rectangular Co-ordinates.

These were computed as on a plane system, Pidurutalagala being taken as origin. The co-ordinates were calculated along circuits and the errors of the closures were distributed as in a traverse. As the Island lies within the longitudes $79^{\circ} 40'$ and $81^{\circ} 50'$, the error of treating the surface as a plane is not very great, though by no means inappreciable. Apparently, although Pidurutalagala is the origin, Knuckles marks the central meridian.

Spirit Levelling.

During the year 1924-25 the levelling of the 83 miles of line from Colombo to Puttalam was completed, with a probable error of \pm one-sixth inch per mile. A line of 63 miles was run from Bibile to Chenkaladi with a probable error of less than \pm one quarter-inch per mile.

It is intended to re-observe the 1909-14 level net. Fifty fundamental bench marks will be established at distances of 30 to 40 miles along the main lines. To this end, 11 fundamental, and a considerable number of intermediate, bench marks were constructed during the year under review.

Block and Settlement Surveys.

Block and settlement surveys covered areas of 260 and 310 square miles respectively.

Town Surveys.

In Colombo, 700 acres were contoured at 2-foot vertical intervals. Two thousand three hundred and sixty acres were surveyed in towns.

Application Surveys.

For areas of 50 acres and over there were 104 requisitions, the total number of questions involved being 3,560.

Wireless Work.

In connection with the Observatory the principal event of the year was the institution of a wireless time-signal service. The

signals are sent on Spark (600 metres) from the Welikada Station at 10 hours 27–30 minutes, a.m. and p.m., Ceylon standard time, and on Continuous Wave (2,300 metres) at 11 hours 27–30 minutes, a.m. and p.m. The transmission is timed to agreement with taps sent, second by second, in conformity with the International Code. The final group in each minute consists of three dashes, the third of which ends at the sixtieth second; the intermediate groups consist of a tuning series of X's during the first minute and, during the second and third minutes, two series of N's and G's, ending at each even 10 seconds except the sixties.

Meteorological Service.

This is continued as usual, in part co-operation with the Meteorological Department of India. Upper air work is also part of the normal programme.

Training School.

Training is maintained according to requirements.

Cyprus, 1924–25.

Governor	...	...	...	Sir Malcolm Stevenson, K.C.M.G.
Registrar-General	and	Ex		
Officio Director of Surveys...				Mr. B. T. Watts.
Assistant Director of Surveys...				Mr. P. E. L. Gethin.

Organization.

The Department is organized in three branches. Though the important Valuation and Registration Branches will receive only casual mention here, it is advisable to give the whole organization for purposes of comparative reference.

I. Survey Branch.—

Field Section.	{	2 Surveyors, 1st Grade.
		2 Surveyors, 2nd Grade.
		3 Assistant Surveyors.
		12 Native Surveyors (temporary).
		7 Permanent Land Registry Clerks.
		56 Chainmen and Staffmen (temporary).
		2 Pay Clerks (temporary).

Drawing Office.	{	1 Surveyor, 2nd Grade.
		1 Native Surveyor (temporary).
		19 Permanent Land Registry Clerks.
		5 Temporary Clerks.
		2 Chainmen.

II. Valuation Branch.—

12 Permanent Land Registry Clerks.
15 Temporary Clerks.
7 Government Valuers.
7 Popular Valuers (nominated by the Elected Members of the Legislative Council and not continuously employed).
1 Server of Notices.
1 Messenger.

III. Registration Branch.—

Registration Section.	{	8 Permanent Land Registry Clerks.
		3 Temporary Clerks.
		1 Collector of Fees (temporary).
Field Record Section.	{	11 Permanent Land Registry Clerks.
		2 Temporary Clerks.

Expenditure.

	£
I. Survey Branch	11,991
II. Valuation Branch... ..	2,975
III. General Registration Branch	3,141
Total ...	<u>£18,107</u>

The cost of Administration, Stores and Pay-officers has been set proportionately against the three headings.

Survey Branch.

The organization is made elastic, to meet current needs. The report hereafter follows the order of the sub-sections.

Generally, the output of field work has been small compared with previous years, by reason of the precipitous nature of the country between the Machera and Adelphi forests and the extreme sub-division of some of the valleys into small holdings, necessitating chain survey and plotting on the scale of 1/1,250.

(a) *Trigonometrical Section*.—In the district of Papho, 24 fourth-order points, covering 122 square miles, were fixed and observed by one surveyor, working for four months. The cost was £162, i.e., £0·57 per point observed with a Troughton and Simms 6-inch micrometer theodolite. The positions and heights were computed at Headquarters.

(b) *Plane-Table 1/5,000 work (Nicosia)*.—The Papho District party took up the survey of the western end of the Nicosia District, four surveyors covering 28,600 acres (5,760 acres of forest included) in the last four months of the year. The average size of cultivated plots was 1·7 acres, and of uncultivated plots 5 acres.

Another plane-table party of six working throughout the year covered 39,300 acres, including 2,875 acres of forest, in the rugged Adelphi-Machera country. The average size of cultivated plots was 0·87 acres, and of uncultivated plots 3½ acres.

The total cost of the work of both parties was £3,870, i.e., nearly 2s. per acre, or £63 per square mile.

(c) *Traverse and Survey of Villages (Nicosia)*.—Thirty-nine villages were traversed in eighteen man-months by theodolite and chain, the chainage fixing 65 points per village and aggregating 7·4 miles per village. Forty-three villages, averaging 12 acres in area and 134 plots per village, were surveyed in 28 man-months at a scale of 1/1,250. The cost of the traverse and survey was £2,051, say £50 per village or £4 per acre or 7s. 6d. per plot.

(d) *Plane-Table 1/5,000 work (Papho)*.—The area overrun in eight months by seven surveyors was 57,200 acres, including 17,260 acres of forest. The cost was £1,824, i.e., 7½d. per acre or £20 per square mile. The average size of cultivated plots was 1·8 acres; and of uncultivated plots 4·9 acres.

(e) *Traverse and Survey of Villages (Papho)*.—The traversing of one village, in which 45 points were fixed, amounted to 7½ miles, executed by one surveyor in a fortnight. Twenty-six villages, averaging 21 acres in 140 plots, were measured up by one surveyor for a scale plan of 1/1,250. The cost of the traversing and survey was £510.

One thousand and thirteen points were fixed by theodolite traverse, which ran to 56 miles in all and was checked and completed in four months.

(f) *Traverse and Survey of Levka Village on the scale 1/1,000*.—The traversing and survey of this large Turkish village of 490 acres was completed in 9½ man-months at a cost of £347, i.e., 14s. per acre.

(g) *Topographical Survey*.—During the year, 453 plans on the scale of 1/5,000 have been reduced to the scale of 2 inches/1 mile. About 200 square miles have thus been completed, the

contours being obtained as follows. During the progress of the 1/5,000 plane-table survey, each surveyor by means of a locally-made clinometer observes the height of each point which he fixes. The result is that the heights of from 60 to 100 points per square mile are known, that is, 15 to 25 points per square inch on the scale 2 inch/1 mile. With a height control so dense as this, local knowledge and the aid given by the lines of cultivation, the contours can be drawn in with exceptional accuracy and with a minimum of additional expense, the work being done by one officer in his spare time.

(h) *Drawing, Plotting and Computing.*—

Record of Work.

Nature of work.	Clerks employed.	Scale of Plans.					
		1/500	1/1,000	1/1,250	1/2,500	1/5,000	1/31,680
Plans plotted by Co-ordinatograph ...	1	13	22	58	13	140	9
Area plotted, acres ...	3	130	731	1,719	422	—	—
Plans checked, No. ...	1	—	—	58	—	190	—
Areas computed, No. ...	3	—	—	—	120	52,675	—
Acreage computed ...	3	—	—	—	647	152,085	—
Fair Drawing, No. ...	4	—	4	52	4	157	—
Plans typed, No. ...	4	—	4	35	4	161	—
Plans examined, No. ...	1	—	—	68	4	186	—
Plans sunprinted, No. ...	1	(Various 735)		438	125	1,530	—
Sheets reproduced in Egypt. (Town of Limassol) ...	—	—	—	11	—	—	—

Valuation Branch.

Two valuers (official and popular) make from 60 to 70 valuations per working day :—say, Holdings in Land, 42; Holdings in Trees, 18; and Holdings in Buildings, 5. The valuation of the whole of the Larnaca, Famagusta and Limassol Districts has been completed, and a general district rate of taxation (Verghi Kimat) is in operation. In the Nicosia, Kyrenia and Papho Districts, valuation follows the heels of survey.

General Registration Branch.

Law XII of 1907 makes registration official and compulsory. It involves the preparation of Land Registers and the issue of title deeds. Thus, during the year 1924-25 30,974 title deeds were issued for 17,377 plots. Fourteen to fifteen title deeds are issued and plots registered by one registry clerk in a working day. The Registration Fees collected in the year amounted to £1,552.

Summary.

It is clear that a modern system of survey, valuation and registration, well co-ordinated, is in order of execution in this progressive community. All are proceeding apace, with incalculable advantage to the Colony.

Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, 1924.

Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States	Sir Laurence Nunns Guillemard, K.C.B.
Surveyor-General	Mr. V. A. Lowinger.
Assistant Surveyor-General,	Mr. C. J. Perkins.
Assistant Surveyor - General, Topo- graphy	Mr. J. N. Sheffield.

Comparative Return of Expenditure.

	Federated Malay States.		Straits Settlements.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Personal Emoluments	864,832		239,117	
Temporary Allowances	118,542		28,333	
		983,374		267,450
Clerical Services		31,782		7,746
Field Allowances	68,550		26,461	
Survey and Demarcation	171,767		73,002	
Instruments and Materials	29,627		7,209	
Contingencies	4,062		758	
Overhead and Miscellaneous	6,579		18,998	
		280,585		126,428
Special Expenditure (Malacca and Topographical)				118,804
		\$		\$
Total		1,295,741		520,428
Capital Account		246,893		—
Gross Expenditure		1,542,634		520,428
Expenditure less Revenue and Reimbursement		1,074,204		470,633
Ditto, 1923		1,206,030		434,716

Central Drawing Office.

The 4 inch/1 mile map of Singapore was published. Prepared by Malay, Chinese and Tamil draughtsmen under supervision, this is a fine map wherein the discrepancies are few and relatively unimportant. The standard 1 inch/1 mile sheets, 2N/10 and 2N/14, were in part completed. The general map of the States at 1 inch/6 miles was brought up to date.

Photo-Litho Branch.

There is an increasing demand from other Departments and from the public for printing of maps, plans, diagrams, etc. The number of maps and other documents printed was 258,543. The photographs taken by officers of the Royal Air Force attached to H.M.S. "Pegasus" were reduced to scale.

Instrument Making and Repairing Section.

The existence of this Section is stated to be justified by the indirect saving due to the prolongation of the life of instruments, and by the lower cost of instruments of a simple type constructed with the aid of a native staff. It has to be seen that they undertake no more than they can perform.

Trigonometrical Branch.

Little work was done during the year. The main triangulation in Trengganu was completed, 16 points being occupied and 16 additional points intersected. Some secondary trigonometrical controls for topographical work were established in north-western Pahang. Reconnaissance in southern Trengganu was carried up to Merchang.

Topographical Branch.

(1) The supervision of the native plane-tablers in the dense and very high jungle of the mountain axis, with peaks rising to between 6,000 and 7,000 feet in Perak and Pahang, demands much forethought and consideration if economy and technical success are to be secured and the health of the parties maintained. Sixty-nine points were cleared, 42 being fixed trigonometrically and 23 by plane-table. (2) In Johore, on the 1 inch/1 mile survey, the conditions were somewhat similar, the chief obstacle being resam fern, covering 30 per cent. of the country. For part of his time the supervisor was attached on liaison duty with the Royal Air Force. The control consisted of a number of points fixed trigonometrically and about 40 miles of special plane-table traverse. The plane-tablers generally ran 1,567 miles of traverse and fixed 12,836 heights by clinometer. The cost was greater than anticipated, the plane-tablers not having had sufficient training in small-scale work. (3) In the Penang Hills, for a map of $8\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, on 10 inches/1 mile, 19 points were fixed trigonometrically while $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles of traversing and $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles of spirit-levelling were run. In all, the work involved 341 miles of plane-table traverse and 10,328 clinometric heights. (4) Of the Parit Forest Reserve in Perak, 14 out of the whole 37 square miles were completed. The control consisted of 17 theodolite locations, 25 miles of special traverse, 14 miles of spirit-levelling and 556 clinometric heights. The plane-tablers were chiefly engaged in running framework traverses between the

controls, involving 171 miles of line and 3,029 heights by clinometer. (5) For Town Plans, see the table following. (6) For proposed hydro-electric scheme, 25 miles of traverse were run and 845 heights taken. Work plotted at 4 inches/1 mile was enlarged to 1 inch/200 feet, with contours at 20 feet intervals. (7) Revision of some of the "1 inch" sheets was partly done by probationers trained under European supervision. The following table condenses the details of much of the work described.

Topographical Branch—1924.

Situation, &c	Scale.	V.I.	Area.		Monthly Output per Plane-Tabler.	Cost.	Cost per Square Mile.
			1 to	Ft. Sq. Miles.			
Perak and Pahang	...	63,360	50	439	3.0	89,034	203
Johore	...	63,360	50	298	4.3	38,506	129
Penang Hills	...	6,336	20	8½	0.22	15,650	1,856
Perak Parit Forest Reserve		15,840	25	14	—	9,846	—
Selangor Kuala Lumpur T.P.		792	5	2.03	0.041	15,617	7,689
Selangor Kuala Lumpur Drainage.		792	5	0.11	—	734	—
Perak Ipoh Town Detail		1,584	—	2.10	0.183	6,422	3,507
Selangor M.S.V.R. Camp		6,336	20	2.5	0.407	1,786	714
Selangor H.E. Scheme	...	15,840	20	—	—	1,132	—
Perak K. Kangsar	...	63,360	50	97½	—	12,893	132

Revenue Surveys.

The following tables give some idea of the nature, extent and cost of the revenue work. Not all the activities in the various States can be tabulated. Thus, in Perak there were 968 redrafts of existing titles, street alignment surveys, the circuiting of unconnected lots, etc.; in Selangor cadastral maps were revised and plans prepared for the Public Works Department; in Negri Sembilan, marks defining the reserve for public roads were examined and positions verified, the revision of the Mukim registers was nearly completed, etc.; in Pahang, 83 miles of road survey, surveys of gaps in the railway reserve, of forest reserves, and of mining concessions were completed; for augmentation of output in Singapore, computers had to be borrowed; the Penang staff did much revision and re-survey together with general work in Wellesley Province and in Dindings; while in Malacca the chief work has been the Revisionary Survey.

State.	Total Expend- iture.	Re- venue.	Titles, &c., pre- pared.	Requisitions.		New Cadastral Sheets.			
				Satis- fied.	Stand- ing.	1 ch.	4 ch.	8 ch.	32 ch.
	\$	\$							
Perak	355,640	86,936	10,008	6,252	4,267	15	—	205	25
Selangor	173,055	44,600	?	6,901	3,682	—	—	1	—
Negri Sembilan	158,100	38,772	1,472	?	?	—	37	—	—
Pahang	193,255	25,939	4,327	1,723	2,884	—	—	94	28
Singapore	148,592	21,390	79	941	883	—	—	—	—
Penang	121,427	10,934	626	521	380	—	—	—	—
Malacca	224,077	17,471	381	448	5,555	—	—	—	—
Wellesley	—	—	—	180	103	—	—	—	—
Dindings	—	—	—	487	399	—	—	—	—

	Lots.	Area.	Chain- age.	Field Cost.	Cost per Chain.	Cost per Acre.		
						Min- ing.	Agri- cul- tural.	Small Hold- ings.
		Acres.	Chains.	\$	Cents.	\$	\$	\$
Perak	3,636	19,294	129,568	117,531	88	2.32	1.77	4.00
Selangor	1,438	13,497	20,560	—	95	3.33	0.96	2.06
Negri Sembilan	652	—	—	37,076	—	?	?	?
Pahang	1,157	199,272	98,858	61,744	62	?	?	?
Singapore	1,637	—	53,366	56,255	92	?	?	?
Penang	—	—	—	—	103	?	?	?
Malacca (Thdl.)	3,218	74,080	143,968	65,280	45	?	?	?
Malacca (Compass)	12,288	19,159	147,916	28,200	19	?	?	?

It will be noted that, while in some States the statistical information is complete, in others it is rather fragmentary, so that an examination of comparative efficiency is not possible throughout.

Gold Coast, 1924-25.

Governor Brig.-Gen. Sir F. G. Guggisberg,
K.C.M.G., D.S.O.

Surveyor-General Lt.-Col. R. H. Rowe, D.S.O.,
M.C.

Deputy Surveyor-General Mr. J. Clendinning, B.Sc.

Trigonometrical Survey.

The Framework Section concentrated chiefly on triangulation, the object being to run a chain across the Kibi range to the Obuasi range. The reconnaissance was completed and observations at eight stations were taken showing an average triangular error of 1.5 seconds. The first two figures have been rigorously adjusted. A base of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles was measured at Akuse.

Topographical Branch.

An area of 5,200 square miles was surveyed during the year—south of $7^{\circ} 30' N.$ on the scale 1/62,500, and north of $7^{\circ} 30' N.$ on the scale of 1/125,000.

The boundary between the Colony and the Haute Volta from Sisili River to the Red Volta was re-determined and permanently marked by cement pillars, fixed by theodolite traverse.

Cadastral Branch.

The Town Surveys of Kumasi and Koforidua were completed.

Wireless Longitudes.

Pending the completion of the rigid framework of the Colony, experiments were made during the year with a view to providing a temporary astronomical framework. Wireless time-signals were used in determining longitude. The results show that the normal number of points that can be fixed by one party during the year is between 30 and 40, at a cost of about £80 per point. Comparisons were made between the longitude of Accra, Kumasi and Atebubu as obtained twenty years ago by telegraphic signals from Cape Town and carried forward from Accra by traverse for the latter two stations, and that obtained during the year by wireless signals. The results were as follows :—

	<i>Accra.</i>			<i>Kumasi.</i>			<i>Atebubu.</i>		
	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
Old Telegraphic Value ...	0	10	29·13	01	37	30·63	0	59	21·72
New Wireless Value ...	0	10	30·53	01	37	27·56	0	59	23·34
Difference : W.—O.T.			+1·40			—3·07			+1·62

Records and Reproduction.

Arrangements for the local reproduction of maps are now definitely complete, showing a saving of approximately £70 on an average sheet of the 1/125,000 series. Seven sheets of the Accra and two of the Kumasi Town Surveys were printed and plates were prepared for the new 1/500,000 road map. Minor reproduction included 1,024 sun-prints.

Details of Costs.

The estimate for the year amounted to £48,817, which includes the native School of Survey; while, in addition, £13,567 was spent on special topographical work, £7,903 on the special Colony Framework Section, and £1,260 on the survey of forest reserves. The total expenditure of the Department was therefore about £71,550.

The following details of the Koforidua Town Survey may be taken as typical of the cost of this class of work :—

			£	s.	d.
Plane-table work	...	approx.	252	0	0
Per trig. point	...	„	8	0	0
Per traverse mile	...	„	16	0	0
Levels per mile	...	„	5	10	0
Detail	...	„	1	0	0
Examination	...	„		10	0
Total Cost	...		£1,802		

Remarks.

Rapid improvement has been made in the determination of time for wireless longitude. The start made on the new trigonometrical framework has been clearly successful. In other respects the methods of the Department appear thoroughly sound. By its forethought, its orderly progress, and its enlightened policy, both technical and administrative, it will certainly do much for the development of the Colony.

Hong Kong, 1924.

Governor	...	...	Sir R. E. Stubbs, K.C.M.G.
Director of Public Works	...	...	Mr. H. T. Creasy.
Superintendent of Crown Lands	...	...	Mr. L. C. Parker Rees.

Staff.

The staff is the same as the previous year except as regards the native surveyors; there are now six Chinese Assistant Surveyors and fourteen Chinese Apprentice Surveyors as against three and seven respectively.

Cost (exclusive of office accommodation):—

		\$
Salaries	...	167,784
Coolies' Wages	...	11,543
Conveyance Allowances	...	9,440
Rent Allowances	...	7,557
Survey Expenses, Coolies' rents, etc.	...	12,163
Total for 1924	...	\$208,487
„ „ 1923	...	\$153,002

The cost of the Department is increasing steadily, being nearly thrice that of 1914 and more than twice that of 1920, while the number of European surveyors has grown from eleven to sixteen since 1914.

Duties.—The lands branch of the Public Works Department is responsible for all surveys, except those undertaken by the military authorities; it submits reports on all applications for land, conducts all sales of areas to be let on long leases, and issues certain permits and licences; it keeps records, is responsible for the preparation of lease plans of all grants, and controls four bailiffs whose time is occupied in preventing squatting and encroachment on Crown Lands. One principal Land Surveyor has charge of survey work and land administration in Hong Kong, another in Kowloon and the New Territories.

Trigonometrical Survey.

New stations have been erected on Tai Mo Shan and Tsing Islands and those at Kai Keung Leung and Tai Lam Chung have been rebuilt, while those at Turret Rock and Cheng Shui Tan have been repaired. The field work was almost completed. A new station was erected at Mount Senhouse, Lama Island, and minor stations fixed in course of the work of a Colonial Survey Section have been or will be permanently marked and co-ordinated with the Colony system.

During the course of a military survey it became evident that the triangulation of Hong Kong and the Leased Territories is neither very precise nor perhaps adequately marked. This state of things must cause extra work and add unnecessary labour. On the completion of the new topographical survey it may be possible to give some help to the Land Survey Department in detecting shaky points. It is, however, probable that the most economical procedure would be to measure a new base, re-observe and remark. It should be specially noted that the Land Survey Department did everything that was within their power to assist the field work of the new survey.

Air Photography.

The air photography executed by Royal Air Force officers attached to H.M.S. "Pegasus" necessitated the preliminary fixing of numerous ground controls, in which the Survey Office participated. All possible assistance was given to facilitate this work. As a development thereof, a reconnaissance of Lantau Island was to be carried out in October.

Topographical Survey.

Five hundred acres in four areas were surveyed, contoured and plotted on large scales.

Cadastral Survey.

A traverse of 15 miles was run and checked between Castle Peak and Lai Chi Kok, and permanent marks established. Over 500 acres in six lots were surveyed and plotted. Surveys of 32 lots for sale were made in various centres; these lots, aggregating less than 15 acres, will bring in an annual rent to the Crown of \$3,000, i.e., about \$1 per 200 square feet, or \$21 per acre, while the sale realised \$28,600 per acre. Two hundred and eighty-four building areas were set out, and an area of 82 acres defined on the slopes of Jardine's Look-out. Recommendations, schedules and plans were prepared for numerous development lots at Wongneichong and for 700 lots in Kowloon and New Kowloon not conforming to the Town Planning Scheme.

Ordnance Surveys.

The total area surveyed and plotted during the year was 537 acres. The survey of the Western District and the City was continued and part of the City boundary on the southern side was defined, boundary stones being set up at suitable points. This work was carried out in conjunction with the training of seventeen Chinese Student Surveyors.

Jamaica, 1924.

Governor	...	...	Brig.-Gen. Sir S. H. Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.
Surveyor-General	...	...	Mr. W. Anthony Baker.

Staff.

The staff remains the same as last year, being under strength to the extent of one Surveyor. The Assistant Surveyor-General has been incapacitated by illness.

Expenditure—

				£
Personal emoluments	...	...	...	4,224
Other charges	...	...	...	1,876
				<hr/> £6,100 <hr/>

Revenue—

				£
Land Sales, etc.	...	...	...	6,299
Sale of sleepers, shingles, etc.	...	...	...	341
				<hr/> £6,640 <hr/>

Surveys.

Two surveyors only have been available for the field for a period of three months in all. Licensed surveyors have been employed in certain cases for fixing the boundaries of Crown Lands and for small allotments. It is presumed that the expenditure of £630 under "other charges" in part covers the fee paid for this work. The field work consisted mainly of closed traverses with errors of from 1 in 300 to 1 in 8,600. It may be remarked that no work by a Government department should show an error as great as 1 in 300. The traverses aggregated 79 miles, and were run at a daily rate of 51 chains and at an average cost of £9 17s. 6d. per mile.

Lands Branch.

The work of this branch continues to grow. The arrears of work in connection with forfeiture are being diminished. Between 1921 and 1924, 1,024 defaulting tax-payers have been induced to rescue their holdings, totalling 4,600 acres. Against an expenditure of £600, the revenue has collected arrears of taxes amounting to £2,500, and £500 has been received from costs of forfeiture. Interlocutory judgments have been obtained in 101 cases, involving 8,558 acres; and 1,424 holdings, containing 5,437 acres liable to forfeiture, are in course of receiving attention.

During the year, 84 per cent. of the plans submitted for registration of title have been handed back to licensed surveyors, whose work is growing so steadily worse as to render action inevitable.

Crown Lands.

The administration of Crown Lands involves the oversight by bailiffs and headmen of numerous predial tenancies, which continue to give much trouble. Spring Garden Estate was parcelled and sold in 235 lots covering 714 acres. A protracted drought, followed by heavy rains, injured crops generally, so that in some cases the purchasers of land by instalment were in arrears with their remittances.

Nigeria, 1924-25.

Governor ...	...	Sir Hugh Clifford, G.C.M.G.
Surveyor-General	...	Mr. A. Cleminson.
Deputy Surveyor-General		Capt. T. J. Waters.

Staff.

- 2 Assistant Surveyors-General.
- 9 Senior Surveyors.
- 12 Surveyors.
- 2 Surveyors (Topographical).
- 3 Surveyors (Minesfield).
- 1 Accountant.
- 1 Lithographer.
- 1 Surveyor.
- 4 Surveyors (Trigonometrical).
- 1 Draughtsman.
- 48 Native Surveyors.
- 1 Chief Draughtsman (Grade I).
- 2 Chief Draughtsmen (Grade II).
- 38 Draughtsmen.
- 2 Clerks H.D. (Grades I and II).
- 6 Clerks H.D. (Grade II).
- 22 Clerks L.D.
- 1 Lithographer and Instrument Repairer.
- 78 Native pupils and learners.

Expenditure.

	£	£
Personal Emoluments		35,758
Other charges—Chainmen and Labourers ...	7,905	
Passages	2,164	
Transport and Travelling ...	4,378	
Instruments and Stores ...	3,382	
Map Publication	370	
Miscellaneous	659	
	<hr/>	18,859
Total		<hr/> £54,617 <hr/>

Revenue.

The revenue earned by the Department was approximately £10,000. It is estimated roughly that the increase of revenue directly attributable to surveys of farm areas in the Kano region is £35 per annum per square mile. The cost of such a survey is about £25 per square mile, or $9\frac{1}{2}d.$ per acre.

Trigonometrical Section.

This is composed of two groups, of which the first contains two Senior Surveyors and one Surveyor and the second of one Senior Surveyor and one Surveyor. Four Native Surveyors are attached. The year's work contemplated the connection of the Naraguta and Udi Bases. The first group worked in easy country; but such hills as do rise between Onitsha and the Udi Base are for the most part heavily timbered. The difficulties

were finally overcome with considerable success by the second group. For work in such country it is obvious that special attention must be concentrated on the reconnaissance. Moreover, during the Harmattan, heliographs may be seen afar if means of directing the light beam are set up either in advance or, when rough heights and positions are known, with instrumental aid after the haze has obscured the distant landscape.

The first group fixed 48 stations and observed eight intersected points in an area of 5,370 square miles and, in addition, beacons 27 stations in an area of 2,280 square miles. The average error of closure of 55 measured triangles was $2''\cdot6$, giving a probable error of observed angle of $\pm 1''\cdot2$. The ten polygons have been adjusted by a method nearly rigorous. The second group in the difficult country in the south occupied 28 stations, observed 12 intersected points and one azimuth, and covered 800 square miles of country. The four polygons were adjusted; they involve 36 triangles with a mean error of closure of $2''\cdot5$, and a probable error of observed angle equal to $\pm 0''\cdot85$. The computations were made at the Lagos Headquarters. Under the difficult conditions encountered by the southern group, the progress of both groups was good. The costs were as follows :—

Reconnaissance and Beacons, 2'4s. per square mile for 4,800 square miles.

Observation, 14'1s. per square mile for 6,170 square miles.

The total cost of the work was £4,914, equivalent to 15'9s. per square mile. This excludes stores (£260), passages and leave pay.

Topographical Section.

The topography made poor progress during the year. The employment of junior African surveyors was unsuccessful, and two European probationary surveyors who arrived in the Colony later, though keen, were too inexperienced to get quickly into working form. Moreover, there were discrepancies in the old controls, and, finally, the Okigwi-Udi-Onitsha country was so unsuitable for plane-tableing that it was necessary to have recourse to the theodolite and compass traverse. The uncompleted Field Sheets Nos. 213, 214, 215 and 216 of the scale of 1/62,500 were finished. From December to 31st March the following was the record of work :—

		<i>Cost.</i>
Theodolite Traverse ...	245 miles	£1 7 3 per mile.
Compass Traverse ...	2,160 „	
Rope and Sound ...	40 „	
Planimetry and Con-		
toured Relief...	1,073 sq. miles	£1 18 7 per sq. mile.
Planimetry alone ...	390 „	

Cost of Trigonometrical and Topographical Work.

The cost of the trigonometrical survey (£4,914) included £1,626 borrowed from the cadastral side. The amounts chargeable against the estimates are therefore :—Trigonometrical, £3,288 ; Topographical, £1,651 ; Stores, £245 ; Total. £5,184.

Cadastral Branch.

In the Southern Provinces since 1922 a Senior Surveyor has controlled the work of the Lagos, Benin, Aba and Ibadan sections. In the Northern Provinces, the Assistant Surveyor-General at Kaduna is responsible for all work except trigonometrical and topographical.

(a) *Southern Provinces.*—The cadastral branch here controls all surveys in Lagos and environs, together with the decentralised sections at Aba, Warri and in the Eastern Provinces, and also Ibadan in the Western Provinces. The high value of land in the Southern Provinces, and the multiplicity of Crown Grants, dating from 1864 onwards, render the lack of a ruling framework in Lagos and Ebute-Metta generally a serious defect. A systematic investigation of Titles and Crown Grants in Lagos and Ebute-Metta will have to be undertaken as soon as it is economically expedient. The branch deals with surveys of concessions, towns, government stations, native quarters, local boundaries, forest reserves, trade and mission sites, and the like.

(b) *Northern Provinces.*—Here the organization is as follows :—(1) Minesfield Survey ; (2) Kano Revenue Survey (Departmental Title) ; (3) Township and Leasehold Surveys ; (4) Special work.

(1) *Minesfield Survey.*—This section deals with the fixing of the boundaries and assignment of the areas of all mining concessions granted under Mining Lease or Exclusive Prospecting Licence, together with the allocation of Mining Rights, Water Leases and Certificates of Occupancy in the tin industry. Nine surveyors traversed 790 miles, surveyed 18,500 acres for 129 mining leases, and 225 square miles for 57 exclusive prospecting leases ; the fees received amounted to £6,591.

(2) *Kano Revenue Survey.*—The Administration of the Northern Provinces requires the survey of districts and farms for taxation. The Kano Section surveyed 92 square miles during the year, increasing the aggregate square mileage to 368. The native staff totals 129, including 41 attached to the Government, 69 to the Kano Native Administration, 10 at Katsina, and small groups at Sokoto, Ilorin and Zaria. The Assistant Director reports that illness among the native staff accounts for ten days per annum per head.

The Kano section has trained also a topographical class which contoured a 3-minute square at Fanisan for military purposes, and a catchment area at Goron Dutsi for the Kano water supply; the latter has required accurate levelling and a large-scale plan. Plans and sections were also prepared for a water scheme at Kazaure. Main traverses approximating to 100 miles have been run north of Kano and marked with concrete beacons.

The lithography of the Nigerian Survey is concentrated at Kano, the climate being more suitable. The plant was increased by a rotary press, a ruling machine, a stitching machine, and two oil engines. Two million printing impressions were drawn during the year.

(3) *Township and Leasehold Surveys*.—Road surveys and levelling, with plans, have been executed for the Kano Town Planning Board. Road surveys were also carried out in Gumel Emirate. Leaseholds for merchants and others are demarcated by this sub-section.

(4) *Special Work*.—The only special work during the year was that of the Sokoto Irrigation Scheme. The output of this sub-section was 39 miles of theodolite traverse, many miles of compass traverse (unlevelled), 7,000 acres contoured at 1-foot vertical interval and plotted on eight sheets to the scale of 1/5,000.

It is to be remarked that it is by no means easy to assign the various branches of work to their correct headings, the reports being too diffuse. The reports should be drawn up to follow strictly the lines of organization, which itself seems to lack definite bounds between the sub-sections (2) and (3) above.

Maps.

A general map of Nigeria in 16 sheets, on the scale 1/500,000, was printed by the Ordnance Survey. An office map, on the scale 1/M, was produced by Messrs. Stanford & Co., and is also in general demand. Further, a map of the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria on the scale of 1/2M was printed by Messrs. Stanford & Co. in colours, and forms the clearest geographical map of the Colony which has yet appeared. Traffic maps are a new feature, likely to develop.

Health.

The Surveyor-General has unfortunately to report the death from blackwater fever of Mr. S. Boulderson (Kaduna, 16th June, 1924), and of Mr. R. L. Drowyn, Senior Surveyor, who had just retired.

General.

The reports afford evidence that the efforts of Nigeria to place the survey, disorganised during the war, on a sound footing are already meeting with success, though much yet remains to be done.

Northern Rhodesia, 1924-25.

Governor Sir H. J. Stanley, K.C.M.G.
Director of Surveys Mr. W. G. Fairweather, B.Sc.
Examiner of Diagrams and Surveys Mr. L. W. G. Eccles, M.C.

Staff.

The staff includes five Assistant Surveyors, one Native Clerk, and six Native Chainboys; but the year's estimates provide for three additional Assistant Surveyors. Of the present staff three are normally at Headquarters, three in the field, and one on leave. Occasional assistance is obtained from a few licensed surveyors, whose work is limited to sub-division of land held under Title Deed and to original surveys of land grants in special circumstances.

Cost.

<i>Personal Emoluments—</i>				£	£
Staff Salaries	...	...	...	4,180	
Additional Staff	...	...	...	525	
Natives and Allowances	...	...	...	273	
				<hr/>	4,978
<i>Other Charges—</i>					
Field Expenses	...	...	...	1,720	
Travelling, Uniforms and Rations	...	...	...	438	
Instruments	...	...	...	150	
Office Expenses	...	...	...	150	
Outfit Allowances	...	...	...	60	
Meteorological	...	...	...	150	
				<hr/>	2,668
Total				...	£7,646
					<hr/>

Trigonometrical Survey.

There are scattered patches of good secondary triangulation in the occupied areas. During the coming year it is hoped to connect some of these by a secondary chain with the Arc of Meridian; this chain will run from the Arc to the railway, probably from Feira to Chilanga.

Topographical Survey.

Though topography has been carried out along some of the boundaries, and by Mr. Croad, Mr. Thompson and others, there is no general topographical survey. It is hoped to make a commencement this year in the region of the secondary chain mentioned above.

Special Work.

Consequent on the report of a Native Reserves Commission, the proposed Native Reserves within the North Charterland Concession have been provisionally demarcated by prismatic compass and cyclometer, controlled by observations of latitude and azimuth. A number of compass traverses have been run along roads owing to the growing demand for road transport. Mile posts were erected along part of the Katombora road from Livingstone.

Useful traversing has been done by the Rhodesia Minerals Concession, Ltd., in the Chilanga and Feira sub-districts, the area covered being 120 by 50 miles. The work will prove valuable as auxiliary framework for the topography proposed above. A copper-mining company laid out a new township at Bwana Mkubwa.

Maps Prepared.

The 1/M Wallace-Beringer map of North-Eastern Rhodesia has been extended over North-Western Rhodesia and revised, and is now issued in black only: it is the only general map of the Colony alone. Forty-four of the forty-eight sheets of the 4/M series have been compiled in so far as the material available permitted and have been put on sale. Plans of farms, either singly or in groups, are in general on a scale of 1/50,000. The Township Plans of Livingstone, Broken Hill, and Lusaka are being re-drawn on the scale 1/1,200. In the absence of a general trigonometrical framework, the time is not yet ripe for the production of a large-scale series.

Cadastral Work.

Tapes are standardised on a 100-foot base at Livingstone. In the triangulation of group surveys the largest allowable error of closure is 10 seconds; the closure usually averages from three to seven seconds.

The statistics of work done are ample and are kept up to date. The statistics of cost per unit of area are doubtless very variable in the present state of development. The following are the principal divisional areas of the Territory :—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
North Charterland Exploration Company's Concession	10,000
British South Africa Company's Freehold Areas	4,310
Crown Land—Grants with Final Title or Option of Purchase	4,386
Crown Land—Lease without Option of Purchase	28
Crown Land—Residual Area, including Native Reserves	269,226
Total Area of Colony	287,950

In the following table the cadastral work of the year is summarised.

	No.	Acres.	Purchase Price. £	Survey Fees. £	Quit Rents. £	Annual Rents. £
Title Deeds to Farms issued ...	20	56,036	5,784	1,016	56	—
Title Deeds to Plots issued ...	20	22	1,490	85	—	—
Permits of Occupation issued...	22	43,733	9,655	858	—	492
Permits of Occupation cancelled	22	61,294	—	—	—	468
Leases issued—						
With Option of Purchase ...	8	415	1,200	—	—	471
Without Option of Purchase	15	4,974	—	—	—	245
Cancelled	5	992	—	—	—	24
Building plots alienated—await-						
ing Final Title	25	32	1,845	103	—	—
Farms surveyed	34	83,333	—	1,832	—	—
Plots surveyed	78	69	—	157	—	—
Soldier Settlement Titles ...	5	13,118	—	255	13	—
Railway Farms—						
Titles issued	2	1,347	—	51	1	—
Farms surveyed	7	9,719	—	253	10	—
Gross Totals	263	275,086*	19,974	4,610	80	1,698*
Totals less Cancellations ...	236	212,800	—	—	80	1,206

* The detailed figures are given to the nearest acre or £1 sterling.

The Department has undertaken miscellaneous duties, such as the training of probationers and others and the keeping of meteorological records. Its field work has lain between Livingstone and the bend of the Kafue on the west, and Fort Jameson on the east, and its general output has been considerable. Survey fees make a large offset against the annual expenditure.

Nyasaland Protectorate, 1924–25.

Governor	Sir C. C. Bowring, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.
Lands Officer	Mr. J. E. Alexander.

Staff.

The staff consists of the Lands Officer, three Assistant Surveyors (two on contract), one Draughtsman, one European clerk, two native tracers and three native clerks.

Cost of Department.

	£
Personal Emoluments	3,279
Passages and Travelling Expenses	468
Miscellaneous	62
Total ...	<u>£3,809</u>

Trigonometrical and Topographical Survey.

None.

Cartography.

None.

Cadastral Survey.

The work of the staff during the year was confined to 43 blocks of land, aggregating 16,400 acres, leased from the Crown in different parts of the Protectorate. No particulars are given as to methods and nature of survey; and there is no evidence whether this work is controlled and tied to any ruling framework. A number of traverses have been run in the Colony from time to time, to which these surveys may possibly be tied.

In view of the slow development, surveys are relatively expensive; these apparently uncontrolled surveys cost about 4s. 8d. per acre. The cost, though not excessive, is no doubt largely dependent on the time consumed in travelling to isolated districts. The report is, however, too condensed to permit of a proper appreciation of the difficulties, or of any recommendations of a helpful nature.

Sudan, 1924-25.

Governor	Sir G. F. Archer, K.C.M.G.
Director of Surveys	Mr. A. A. R. Boyce, F.R.A.S.

Staff.

The only changes since the preceding year were due to the appointment of an Inspector of Surveys, Grade III, and to the retirement of a draughtsman.

Expenditure.

	£	£
Personal Emoluments I	20,694	
„ „ II	1,410	
	<hr/>	22,104
Other charges :—		
Transport	2,704	
Upkeep of Motors	250	
Travelling, Forage and Climate Allowances	1,345	
Guides and Labourers	1,300	
Gezira Beacons	201	
Purchase and Rent of Stores	442	
Stationery and Printing	850	
Office expenses	96	
Postal and Telephones	156	
Contingencies	100	
	<hr/>	7,444
Total (1924)	£29,548	
„ (1923)	£27,162	

Triangulation.

The Egyptian Irrigation Department carried out a triangulation over, and mapped, a large area between Lake Tana and the eastern border of the Sudan. A Sudanese Native Surveyor, attached to the Nile-Congo Divide Company for a period of nine months, covered with triangulation an area of 2,750 square miles in the southern Bahr-el-Ghazal and made a detail survey of 80 miles of the River Ibba.

Topography.

In connection with the mapping of the more distant regions of the Sudan, wireless time-signals are being utilised with advantage. The experience of Lieutenant-Colonel King in the more remote country of Jubaland proves that European signals may be picked up without difficulty, provided that the apparatus is specially designed for the work. The Sudan, therefore, is not compelled to fall back on secondary stations like Massawa and Mogadishu, from which the position of Wau was fixed. The report does not state if the signals at the two Italian stations were accepted as giving true East African time, or whether the signals were simultaneously received at another point of known longitude in the Sudan. In any case it is obviously of importance to compare directly with the fundamental longitude of Greenwich, as is now clearly possible.

It is hoped in this way to obtain something of the nature of accurate maps of the Bahr-el-Ghazal and Mongalla provinces, where triangulation or traverse would be laborious, expensive and slow. A great extension of the principle of fixing latitudes and longitudes astronomically would be of immense assistance to the compilation of first and provisional editions.

The nature of the cadastral work in the irrigation areas is such that accurate contouring is needful. This will be treated under *Contouring and Levelling*.

The Khor Arbat Delta, covering 65,000 feddans (1 feddan = 1.04 acre), that is, about 105 square miles, was surveyed topographically and a wheel and compass traverse was made of about eighty miles of the boundary between Fung and Kassala Provinces in the vicinity of Mafaza. A considerable length of the Khor el Atshan was also surveyed.

Route Sketches.

The detail on the topographical maps in the outlying regions depend almost entirely on route sketching, executed by officers in the course of their travelling on administrative or other duties. A valuable set of such sketches, with plane-tableing, was forwarded by Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. K. Bacon; they cover nearly the whole of the Pibor District. The Director reports a distinct increase both in the number and quality of these reports. The route surveys are plotted on the 4/M series of maps. It is not to be expected that the full benefit can be got from such sketching until officers are supplied with enough "positions" to allow of proper placing and orientation.

Contouring and Levelling.

The principal work of this nature during the year arose from the taking over of the contour survey of the Gezira, the large area in the fork of the White and Blue Niles. Up to the middle of January contour levellers were required to run 6-minute sides (10.4 kilometres) per working day. The total area levelled during the year was 396,580 feddans, i.e., 645 square miles. The mean closing error on 12-mile circuits varied, according to the season, from 1.5 to 4 millimetres per mile. The contour levellers, on the other hand, were given a tolerance of 10 millimetres per mile, plus the closing error of the control circuit.

The manner of breaking down the control net into the contour net is not quite clear. "Control levels are 200 metres apart." The meridional distance between "spot levels" is 600 metres and the longitudinal distance 300 metres. The cost of the contour levelling is about 6 milliems (1½d.) per feddan. The field sheets were prepared on a scale of 1/20,000.

Trouble has arisen in the Gezira from the screw-piles used by the Egyptian Survey Department as B.Ms. on their lines of precise levelling in the Nile Valley; the piles at Abu Ushar and El Furabi had apparently moved 5 centimetres. Accordingly a mean of ten such B.Ms. was taken as Datum. In the Director's opinion the best plan is to set up B.Ms. in groups of 3 screw-piles, separated by reasonable intervals; the interval would, no doubt, depend on the nature of the site.

A portion of the Sennar Dam contour line was surveyed and plotted on the maps of 1/4,000 scale.

Township Surveys.

A detailed survey of the town and environments of Wau has been made at the request of the Governor; plans covering an area of 21,000 feddans are now in course of preparation at Headquarters.

This work is increasing in volume. At Omdurman, the surveys for alignments, sub-divisions and sales numbered 2,750. In Khartoum and Hillet Hamad 500 alignments were made. Alignment was also executed in Kosti Suk and Hillet Fellata. The alignment survey of Hillet Kojali is in progress; Shendi and Shereik Suk, with the plans, have been completed. Quarters and numerous building plots were laid out in Wad Medani.

The surveys of El Dueim, where an office has been opened, of Kassala and of Gebeit have been completed and the alignment and registration of El Dueim is proceeding. Maintenance involved work in Suakin, Tokar, Sinkat, Tendelti, Jebelein, Kosti and Halfa. Maintenance and alignment have been carried out in Hassa Heissa, Rufaa, Kamlin and Wad-el-Haddad.

Cadastral.

Though the contour levelling and township surveys are properly cadastral, it has been convenient to treat them separately. On the Blue Nile the most important work lay in the Gezira Canalisation Area. Lists of areas of plots in the 1924 Rented Area and Extension, 137,096 feddans in all, were supplied to the Commissioner of the Gezira. A length of 500 kilometres of canals was surveyed and plotted. The Gezira beacon-repairing parties covered 1,325 square miles, renewing 1,444 beacons. The boundary between Dueim and Geteina Merakiz was run for 53 kilometres. Two small re-afforestation areas were demarcated. There were surveyed also the compensation areas for Kawa Aerodrome and 1,575 feddans in Um Rob and Abu Gow. In Khartoum Province, sub-divisions and new plots have been set out in various localities, and all the "Haddam" (land washed away by the high Nile) has been measured up. A survey of 32,000 feddans was made for the Kassala Cotton Company, 120 miles of line being cleared, chained and surveyed, and 205 permanent beacons erected.

Cadastral Computing and Compiling.

The calculation of areas forms an important branch of work. Nineteen thousand plots in the Manajil Settlement, varying in extent from 3 to 300 feddans, and aggregating 542,000 feddans, were computed. The 377.2 contour of the Jebel Aulia Dam surround was plotted from the Egyptian maps; this work extends 180 miles from Jebel Aulia to Jebelein.

Printing and Reproduction.

A new printing press was shortly to be in working order; with this it is hoped to do all ordinary map production in Khartoum.

The Department has introduced from Egypt the Hall gum-bichromate process for reproduction, whereby maps drawn on tracing cloth are sun-printed upon sensitised zinc plates; trouble from the chemicals was overcome by altering their proportion. The total number of sheets issued in 1924 was 11,000, as against 5,090 in 1923. Zinc plates in stock now number 310.

Maps.

The Headquarters topographical staff has been fully employed in compiling the maps of the new boundary between the Sudan and French Equatorial Africa; nineteen frontier sheets of the 4/M map have thus been revised. Three new sheets in the Mongalla Province have also been completed. One of the 1/M sheets of the Western Sudan was nearing completion. A small-scale general map of the White Nile Province, on the scale of 1/2,000,000, was compiled. Thirty-two special maps were drawn for reproduction, including Port Sudan Harbour Extension, Gash River and tributaries, and various military maps.

Twenty-six sheets of the Gezira 1/20,000 contoured map and other miscellaneous maps have been transferred to zinc by the gum-bichromate process. Three sheets on the scale 1/50,000, showing the Gezira Canalisation Scheme, were made ready for reproduction. Twenty-nine Key Maps of Sections, showing the individual plots of the Manajil Settlement, have been compiled on the scale 1/20,000 from the original 1/4,000 plans. One hundred and thirty-eight tracings of these Key Maps, covering an area of 75,000 feddans, were prepared for sun-printing and issued to the officials concerned. Maps on the scale of 1/50,000, showing all Government and privately-owned land below the 377'2 contour at Jebel Aulia, were completed. A plan of the Mikailab pumping area and various small plans were supplied to several Departments. Plans of Kassala township on the scales of 1/500 and 1/2,500 were drawn.

Miscellaneous.

A survey, with levels, of the pipe track from Khor Arbat was plotted and a plan supplied to the Public Works Department.

General.

Out of twenty-six Effendis who sat at a qualifying examination for Junior Surveyors, only eight passed. The Director is preparing an elementary textbook for issue in English and Arabic. It will be seen that the Department carries on work of an exceptionally varied nature.

Trinidad and Tobago, 1924.

Triangulation.

During the civil year covered by the present report, sixteen new stations were fixed, for which purpose twenty stations were occupied. Average angular closure = 4.4 seconds. Two elevated signals, 50 feet high, and heavy clearing, were necessary.

Topographical Survey.

The Topographical Survey of Northern Trinidad and Tobago was continued by the party organised independently under Captain G. Latham, R.E.

From January to June the season was very dry, and in Trinidad 300 square miles were mapped, and all work was finished north of a line from San Fernando to Rio Claro, maps of the oil companies being incorporated. From July to December, 250 square miles were mapped, the season being very wet.

In Tobago steady progress was made throughout the year. All observing work was completed over a network of trigonometrical stations at two miles interval. The accuracy is sufficient for cadastral work. Many artificial features, such as churches and chimneys were intersected, especially on lines of communication.

An examination was made of Messrs. Pearson's map. The detail was found to be excellent, but the heights irregular, being good near the railway, but with errors up to 130 feet on the central range.

Petition Surveys.

The work done is shown in the following table :—

Town and Village Lots.	Parcels of Land totalling 300.			
	Under 5 acres.	5 to 10 acres.	10 to 20 acres.	Over 20 acres.
133	131	118	42	9

Concession Surveys.

The total area of Crown Lands measured by contract surveyors, under departmental supervision, was 16,640 acres. These surveys of oil and other concessions have been connected to the trigonometrical framework and the records filed in the Department.

On the Oropuche Drainage Scheme, 586 chains of boundary lines were run by the staff to complete the survey of these Crown Lands, which comprise 3,613 acres in six parcels.

Re-surveys, Reserves, Resumptions for Roads, etc.

Under this heading the traverses totalled 434 chains; but by reason of the absence of proper records and the imperfections of the old surveys, this work absorbs much time and labour.

Control Surveys.

Traverses, in total length $56\frac{1}{2}$ miles, were run between trigonometrical stations to control the surveys of alienated lands. The following table shows the division of these surveys between the staff and contracting surveyors.

	Petitions.		Concessions.		Reserves, Resumptions, &c.		Controls.
	chains.	acres.	chains.	acres.	chains.	acres.	chains.
Staff ...	10,532	988	722	3,613	150	12	3,893
Contract ...	5,062	999	4,234	16,640	284	5	632

Maps and Plans.

Twenty-six sectional maps were issued during the year. There are 69 oil maps, on the scale 1/9,504, whereon all additions and changes are annually recorded, the nature of the tenancy being shown in colour. Fifty-six copies were reproduced.

Plans.

One thousand and sixty-five grant plans were made during the year, together with numerous tracings. Transactions under the Real Property Ordinance involved the certification of 560 plans.

New Cadastral Maps.

The new maps based on rectangular co-ordinates will be prepared on the scales 1/2,500 and 1/10,000. A new scheme of scales, sheet dimensions and numbering has been evolved.

New Mapping Scheme.

Scale.	Sheet Reference Letter or No.	No. of Sheets.	Area Covered.		Size of Sheet. Inches.
			Chains.	Miles.	
1/50,000	A to H	8	$1,800 \times 1,500$	$22\frac{1}{2} \times 18\frac{1}{2}$	$28 \cdot 512 \times 23 \cdot 760$
1/10,000	1 to 25	200	360×300	$4\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$	" "
1/2,500	A to P	2,000	90×75	$1\frac{1}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{8}$	" "

Time.

The usual observations were taken for the control of time throughout the Island.

Expenditure totalled £6,817, of which £3,848 represents salaries of staff, £1,982 wages of extra staff, £655 travelling expenses, the remainder being mostly materials for surveys.

Uganda, 1924.

Governor	...	...	...	Sir G. F. Archer, K.C.M.G.
Director of Surveys and Land Officer	...	...	...	Mr. E. Richardson (until retirement).
"	"	"		Mr. Dyson Blair.
Deputy Director of Staff	...	...	...	Mr. H. B. Thomas.
Assistant Director	...	...	...	Captain E. G. Fenning. D.S.O.
Assistant Land Officer	...	...	...	Mr. J. G. Strickland.
Conveyancer and Registrar of Titles	...	...	...	Mr. D. L. G. Williams.

Staff.

- 14 Surveyors.
- 1 Chief Draughtsman.
- 1 Office Superintendent and Storekeeper.
- 1 Computer.
- 3 Draughtsmen and 5 Clerks.

The nature of the work involves a strain on the health of the staff, illness amongst the Europeans rising this year to 16 days on the average of all the staff.

*Revenue and Expenditure.**Revenue.**Expenditure.*

	£		£
Land Rents	19,449	Personal Emolu-	
Land Sales	300	ments	18,808
Premiums on Leases	1,887	Other Charges	3,007
Registration of Titles	1,020		
Preparation of Deeds	1,578		
Survey Fees	3,296		
Miscellaneous	936		
Total	£28,466	Total	£21,815

Trigonometrical Survey.

Ten stations of the Secondary Chain from Toro to the Eastern Province were occupied, so that nine stations remain to complete the chain as far as the Nile. Thirteen triangles have been completed with a mean triangular error of $2''\cdot95$, a maximum error of $7''\cdot04$ and a probable error of $\pm 2''\cdot15$ per observed angle.

This chain is linked with 12 sides of the old Uganda triangulation, and shows that the scale of the latter is too small by 1:5,000 to 1:4,000—discrepancies averaging about twice the amount anticipated and traced in part to an error of standardisation in the measure of the Busowa base.

A quadrilateral connecting the Uganda triangulation with the Anglo-German Boundary Chain in the vicinity of Entebbe was re-observed; the results appeared to indicate failure to discover the old stations, and are a further instance of the future trouble caused by imperfect marking. It is hoped that a connection may be established elsewhere.

The Ankole triangulation was adjusted to Arc of Meridian values, the sides being lengthened on an average by $1/20,000$.

A summary of results, containing geodetic positions, rectangular co-ordinates, azimuths and grid bearings, now includes 109 trigonometrical stations. An alphabetical index of 405 intersected points in Toro was also prepared.

Topographical Surveys.

Two hundred and sixty-five square miles of topography were completed in eastern Toro.

Cadastral Surveys.

Trigonometrical control covered 65 square miles in Kyagwe and 291 square miles in Buyaga; in the unhealthy Bulemezi country the control had to be established by theodolite traverse. Five hundred and forty-eight square miles were covered during the year at an average rate of 150 square miles per officer per annum. Eight thousand eight hundred and eighty of the 16,830 square miles of the Kingdom of Buganda are now completed. The cost of the Mailo Survey in the Buganda Kingdom during the year was £11 5s. per square mile.

For the control of the cadastral survey in Toro, officers break down the minor triangulation of the topographical survey. Standard plane-table sheets, containing 3 minutes of latitude and 3 minutes of longitude, are prepared on the scale of $1/20,000$ to show all claims. One hundred and thirteen square miles of native claims were surveyed during the year; the total area of all claims in Toro surveyed up to date amounts to 362 square miles.

Crown Lands.

There was little work done in this branch save the survey of some small lots, ginneries, etc.

Drawing Office.

The number of sun-prints was 5,830. Forty-six plane-table sheets of the $1/10,000$ Mailo Survey of Buganda have been traced, reduced and incorporated in the $1/50,000$ series. A large wall-map of Uganda Protectorate was received during the year.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1326.

ST. LUCIA.



REPORT FOR 1925.

For Reports for 1923 and 1924 see Nos. 1240 and 1268 (Price 6d. each).



LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh

York Street, Manchester; 1, St Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast

or through any Bookseller

1927

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1326.

ST. LUCIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

I.—Geographical and Historical.

Though uncertain, it is generally accepted that St. Lucia was discovered by Christopher Columbus on 18th June, 1502. Some doubt, however, is thrown upon this belief by a French tradition to the effect that its discovery was made by French shipwrecked seamen in December of a later year, who named the island St. Alouziel or St. Alousie.

The largest of the Windward Islands, St. Lucia is 24 miles in extreme length and 12 miles in greatest breadth, its area being estimated at 233 square miles. It is situated in latitude 13° 50' North and longitude 61° West, with Martinique in view about 24 miles to the north and St. Vincent about 21 miles to the south. On a clear day the historic Diamond Rock, or "H.M.S. Diamond Rock," can clearly be seen off the coast of Martinique. At its northern extremity lies Pigeon Island, famous for Rodney's Fort and Look-out, from whence the movements of the French fleet under de Grasse were observed prior to its total defeat by Admiral Rodney off the coast of Dominica in 1782. Pigeon Island was later used as a military station, but for a number of years has been abandoned for that purpose. The village of Gros Islat and the bay of that name are opposite Pigeon Island.

Rat Island, lying off the coast between Vigie and Choc, is fitted as a quarantine station. Fortunately, it is more often in demand as a holiday resort.

Vigie promontory forms the northern boundary of Castries harbour. On its highest point is a lighthouse and the Signal Station of the port. There are numerous War Department buildings at Vigie now much sought after and rented as private residences.

Government House, the official residence of the Administrator, is a commodious building beautifully situated on a spur of the Morne some 500 ft. above sea-level, and commanding unrivalled views of the surrounding scenery.

On the summit of Morne Fortune, which rises 800 ft. above Castries, there is further extensive barrack accommodation, and this also is to some extent rented as private residences. Castries harbour, on the north-west end of the Island, possesses excellent natural advantages. Ships drawing up to $27\frac{1}{2}$ ft. of water can anchor with safety upon its sheltered waters. It is on record that in 1899 the United States of America squadron, comprising three battleships, two cruisers, and two second-class cruisers, and also one Dutch warship, were safely berthed in the harbour without interfering with the regular business of the port, ten steamers having called during their stay, seven of which coaled. The town of Castries is built upon what is for the most part reclaimed land at the northern end of the harbour. It is well laid out and possesses good wharves for shipping. Nowhere in the West Indies can ships lie alongside so safely and be coaled and watered with such convenience and speed.

The important sugar plantations and factories of Cul de Sac and Roseau are some miles south of Castries. Each possesses a sheltered bay from which crops may be shipped.

Marigot harbour, the villages of Anse-la-Raye and Canaries are on the western coast. The picturesque town of Soufriere nestles at the feet of the two Pitons. These imposing cone-shaped mountains rise sheer out of the water, the greater to the height of 2,619 ft., the lesser to the height of 2,461 ft.

A most interesting volcanic crater is to be found two miles from the town of Soufriere and about 800 ft. above sea-level. There are a number of perpetually active boiling cauldrons of black water and mud from which issues large quantities of steam: around the sides there is a quantity of sulphurous and iron deposits. There are two furnished houses close by which are frequently used as health resorts. Hot sulphurous baths may be had at the bath house there, and lower down the valley at "Diamond." The first baths were established as far back as 1784 by Baron de Laborie near Soufriere, for the use of invalids.

Further down the coast are the villages of Choiseul, Laborie, and Vieuxfort. The lastmentioned is situated at the southern extremity of the Island and possesses an extensive sugar plantation and factory. Cape Moule à Chique, on the highest point of which, 733 ft. above sea-level, there is a lighthouse fitted with a modern flashlight visible 40 miles out at sea, is the most southerly point.

On the east, or windward, coast are the villages of Micoud and Dennery, the latter having a large sugar estate and factory just outside its boundaries. Marquis and Dauphin lie to the north of Dennery. Marquis Valley is a well-managed and fertile pasture; unfortunately, at present it lacks suitable road communication with Castries. It is hoped that next year a new road

will be constructed which will make access to Marquis quite possible for motors. It is claimed that the Empress Josephine was born near Dauphin, and was afterwards baptised at Martinique.

The new, first-class and up-to-date hotel, with accommodation for fifteen people, situated in an unrivalled position 300 ft. above Castries, should prove an attraction to tourists. From its pleasant surroundings excursions may be made by road and sea to the numerous points of historic and scenic interest in which the Colony abounds.

II.—General Observations.

The general health of the Island was good during the year. There was no epidemic sickness to be recorded. The Hookworm Campaign ceased and it is the opinion of the Chief Medical Officer that this infection will consequently increase.

The Chief Medical Officer is responsible for the general supervision of matters of health and sanitation in the Colony.

Victoria Hospital, the principal hospital, is situated within half a mile of Castries. A Resident Surgeon is in charge, and he is assisted by a staff consisting of a European matron with local nurses and dispensers. There is a ward with six rooms assigned to paying patients, of which extensive use is made.

This institution has a good reputation, and patients speak highly of the skill and attention of the staff.

There are three small district casualty hospitals close to the principal local dispensaries of Soufriere, Vieuxfort and Dennery.

The Pauper and Leper Asylums are situated in the Soufriere District, and are supervised by the Medical Officer of the District and a Visiting Advisory Committee.

The treatment of yaws has been successfully carried forward. The yaws hospital was finally closed for the purpose in September, 1923, a striking testimony to the efficacy of the dispensary treatment of yaws by injections of arseno-benzol compounds.

On 31st December, 1924, the resident population of the Colony was estimated to have been 24,939 males and 29,365 females, making a total of 54,304. On 31st December, 1925, this figure had increased to 55,099 (males 25,345 and females 29,754). The natural increase during the year was 957, but departures from the Colony exceeded arrivals by 162, so that the net addition was only 795.

The number of inhabitants to the square mile was 236.

Births during the year numbered 2,113, 1,091 males and 1,022 females. The number of deaths recorded was 1,156, 584 males and 572 females. The birth-rate was 36·2 and the death-rate 18·8 per 1,000 of the population. Illegitimate births numbered 1,334, or 631·3 per 1,000 of the total births.

One death from snake-bite was reported in the Micoud District. The danger from venomous reptiles is much exaggerated. The most dangerous snake, the fer-de-lance, is being gradually exterminated through the introduction of the mongoose, and the advance of cultivation. In addition, the Government pays 6*d.* for every serpent head brought to the various police stations, and this helps considerably in the process of extirpation. They are never met with in or near the towns.

There is good river and sea fishing. At certain times of the year shooting can be obtained.

The prosperity of the Colony is mainly dependent upon agriculture.

Extensive banana cultivation has progressed rapidly and is proving of great benefit to the Colony.

There is an abundant supply of fruit, vegetables and fish, which form the staple foods of the population.

Coaling, for which there are exceptional facilities, still affords considerable, though irregular, occupation for a number of labourers in and around Castries.

"Poppy Day" has been observed since 1923, and a fairly satisfactory sum has been so far collected yearly for Earl Haig's Fund for Disabled Soldiers.

His Excellency the Governor of the Windward Islands, Sir Frederick Seton James, K.B.E., C.M.G., arrived in the Colony on 8th April, remaining in residence until 19th July.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Lucia, went to Canada to represent the Windward Islands at the Trade Conference on 4th June. At the termination of the Conference on 27th July he went on leave and returned to the Colony on 24th September.

The first shipment of bananas from the Colony was made on 3rd August to the United States of America by S.S. "Maraval."

The Public Lawn Tennis Court in the Botanic Gardens was completed, and a second one is now in course of construction.

The Tourist Association was formed on 18th November, and it is expected that tourist ships may be induced to call at St. Lucia during 1926.

SHIPPING.

The number of vessels entering and cleared during the year was 1,015 of a total tonnage of 1,106,097 tons. Of this total 489 were steam vessels and 526 sailing.

III.—Financial.

The local revenue received during the year amounted to £75,555, or £3,960 more than in the previous year. The expenditure, however, exceeded the revenue by £9,527, being £85,082, or £3,104 less than in 1924. It is expected that economies which have been effected will reduce expenditure considerably during the present year, while improving trade conditions should increase the revenue by some £6,000 in 1926. It is anticipated that there will be a surplus of approximately £1,200 revenue. Charges on account of public debt and for advances by the Crown Agents and Colonial Bank are a heavy drain on the Colony's resources. The accounts for the year closed with a deficit of £9,527, or an improvement of £7,064 over the deficit at the end of 1924. The public debt of the Colony stood at £80,190, and the accumulated sinking fund for its redemption £51,243, on 31st December, 1925.

The coinage of Great Britain is the currency of the Colony, while local Government currency notes of the value of 10s. and 5s. are in circulation, as well as the notes of the Colonial Bank and Royal Bank of Canada, both of which have branches in Castries. Each of these banks has Savings Banks, and there is, in addition, a Government Savings Bank, all of which do a fair amount of business, the latter's balance at the close of the year being £13,657.

The Imperial weights and measures are in use in the Colony.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of imports (including bunker coal) was £277,013, and of exports (including bunker coal) £243,207. The value of bunker coal imported was £39,562, as compared with £31,721 in 1924, while the export totalled £77,399, as compared with £51,042 in the previous year. Imports from United Kingdom totalled £86,114, other parts of the British Empire £66,941, while the total from foreign countries was £114,708, parcel post being responsible for the remaining £9,250. Of the imports from foreign countries, those from the United States of America show a value of £96,405, of which the principal items were bunker coal £39,562, and cinema films £11,750.

Of British countries Canada shows a total of £39,483, and it is satisfactory to note that the bulk of the trade hitherto done with the United States of America is now going to Canada.

Of the total exports, commodities valued at £100,304 went to the United Kingdom, £39,580 to other parts of the British Empire and £24,896 to foreign countries, while exports of bunker coal totalled £77,399. Ships stores, with the decline in shipping trade, amounted to £1,028 only.

IV.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

Favourable weather enabled a good crop to be made.

The price of sugar fell steadily during the year from £36 per ton for best West Indian Crystals in January, to £25 10s. per ton in December, 1925, the average price received being £30 10s., as against £46 per ton for crop in 1924.

The decline in value of sugar products has been discouraging to the sugar factories and to the small cane farmers who make fancy molasses. The output of factory sugar for refining was much higher than it has been for some years, an increase being shown of 1,300 tons for the 1925 crop. There was a reduction in low sugars and molasses and syrup production.

The area in sugar remains at about 4,750 acres. Factory plants have been greatly improved and a much better recovery of sugar is expected for the tonnage of cane handled. It is hoped that as regards the sugar industry generally the recent negotiations with Canada and improved trading facilities will be beneficially felt throughout this industry. There has been a slight increase in the amount of rum manufactured locally, overseas prices have however been discouraging and no rum was exported.

The cocoa market has provided a workable price throughout the year, about 68s. per cwt. for best cocoa; cultivation has not been extended and the area in cocoa remains at about 6,000 acres.

The lime industry has had an encouraging year which has placed production on a firm footing. The cultivations have received increased attention and have been considerably extended. The concentrated lime juice market improved from £18 to £21 per pipe, raw juice remained stationery at 2s. to 2s. 6d. per gallon, but some extensive contracts were made by local growers and a high grade product was exported.

There was a moderate trade in green limes to the United States during the period February–June.

Excellent prices were received during the year for otto of limes and distilled lime oil. The former rose from 11s. to 22s. per lb. at the close of the year, the latter from 6s. in January to 9s. 6d. per lb. in December. Owing to general shortage these prices have since greatly improved.

The recent development of an additional 100 acres in lime cultivation brings the area to a total of about 2,650 acres.

The coconut crop has again proved a safe investment, the average price being £30 per ton for copra; a considerable amount of the crop is now cured by heated flue system. This has prevented loss of time and crop during wet weather.

Groves have been extended and now cover about 2,700 acres.

A larger proportion of the crop has been purchased by the local oil mills.

Nutmegs (and mace) though not very extensively grown prove a satisfactory export crop.

Logwood, cedar, roofing shingles, charcoal, and firewood were exported in substantial quantity.

Some progress is being made in the planting of tobacco, camphor, African oil palm and sisal hemp. There is room for much development in these directions.

The bay oil factories have maintained good production, now mainly in the finished product—bay rum—for which there is an increasing demand. An increase of 4,237 gallons in export is shown over 1924.

As to bee-keeping, a good harvest of honey and wax was made during the year, but slightly below that for the previous season. The apiaries have been improved by the introduction of Italian queen bees.

Banana cultivation is going ahead, and the regular calls of fruit steamers are confidently expected to start towards the end of 1926.

The original promoters of the banana export industry, now registered as a company, propose to develop, in addition to the planted area, a considerable extent of Crown Lands for banana production.

Conducted on the right lines, with right application to control of disease and suitable shipping facilities, this development should soon form a chief industry.

The oil mill is now confining its activities to extracting oil from copra alone. This forms quite an important minor industry. The sale of oil meal is conducted intercolonially.

The exports show a marked increase both in fruit and ground provisions generally. A considerable proportion of this increase is due to the activity of small proprietors. There are marked signs of a progressive agricultural policy.

Increased interest has been shown in the cultivation of Sea Island cotton. There are considerable areas suitable for this crop which so far are free from "pink bollworm."

The teaching of agriculture in the primary schools, where treated seriously by the pupils, should prove of great benefit to the Colony in the future if the theory and practice as now being taught is put to practical use on leaving school.

Cattle, sheep, and horses are of poor quality and, when finances permit, the introduction of fresh stock is urgently needed.

High freights and uncertain and expensive inter-island communication tend to restrict the smallholder from sending perishable goods to the ready markets in other islands, and hinder the free exchange of products between the nearer islands.

V.—Education.

Primary education is free and compulsory. There are 49 denominational schools. Although education is compulsory between the ages of 6 to 14 years little more than half the children of school age attend. The teaching is greatly hampered by the prevalence of French "patois."

Grants-in-aid are made to these schools, mainly for the payment of teachers' salaries. The Inspector of Schools, a Government Officer, is in charge of the administration of the grants.

Except for the Roman Catholic Sisters, the teachers are all natives of the Colony or neighbouring Colonies. Facilities for training of teachers, or higher rates of pay to attract more highly qualified teachers, are urgently needed.

English, reading, writing, arithmetic, the elements of grammar, geography and hygiene are taught. In the upper classes boys are taught elementary agricultural science, both practical and theoretical, and the girls needlework and domestic economy. The results are generally good.

Secondary education is supplied by St. Mary's College for boys, and St. Joseph's Convent School for girls, both situated in Castries. These schools prepare their pupils for the Cambridge University Local Examinations and the London University Matriculation Examination. Pupils have attained considerable success in these examinations. An annual scholarship of £175 per annum, known as the St. Lucia Scholarship, was established in 1918. The scholarship was suspended during the year owing to the necessity for economy. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London University Matriculation Examination to candidates having the requisite local and residential qualifications. A choice of Universities, or of Agricultural, Scientific or Technical Colleges or Institutions in Europe, Canada or the United States approved by the Governor in Council, is permitted.

The scholarship is tenable for not less than three, and not more than five, years according to the time required for the completion of the course of study sanctioned. Up to 1925 six scholarships have been awarded.

VI.—Climate.

The climate of St. Lucia, always very much maligned, is generally healthy. Everything possible in the way of sanitation is carried out but owing to lack of funds much remains to be done. The health of the Island compares favourably with any of the West Indian Colonies. There are two seasons, the dry season usually beginning in January and ending in May, and the wet season lasting from June to December. The climate is singularly mild. On the hillsides around Castries, where many of the best residences are located, it is pleasantly cool. On the Morne Fortune a delightful breeze is almost invariably to be found.

The mean temperature varies from 70° to 72° during the cool season, when it sometimes goes as low as 65° at night. During the hot season 90° has been recorded. The temperature records obtained from the Meteorological Station at Reunion show a mean noon temperature of 83·9° F. in the shade, and a mean night temperature of 71·6° F. The range of temperature was 27°. (Minimum 64°, Maximum 91°.)

The mercurial mean pressure gives an average of 29·71 inches.

The rainfall for 1925 was 76·76 in. at the Botanic Station, Castries, being 3·77 in. below the average for 25 years.

Thunderstorms are not frequent and accidents from lightning rare.

Slight earthquake shocks are occasionally felt.

VII.—Communications.

The road system of the Island, owing to lack of funds, has perforce to advance slowly. There are now maintained by the Government 125 miles of main roads, 139 miles of by-ways, and 74 miles unclassified roads, of which 126 miles are suitable for and much used by motor traffic.

Passenger subsidised motor-bus services are regularly maintained between Castries and Dennery and Vieuxfort and Soufriere.

The Government 50-ton motor launch supplies a regular service between Castries, Soufriere, Vieuxfort, and the villages of Anse-la-Raye, Canaries and Laborie.

There is a telephone system throughout the Colony, the ten exchanges being connected by 94 miles of trunk lines, giving 246 connections over 275 miles of wire, 218 subscribers.

Mail communication is maintained by (1) a regular fortnightly steamer service to Canada and other West Indian Colonies, and (2) a monthly service via Martinique to Europe by means of the French mail steamer. There are other and frequent mail opportunities via Barbados and America, and direct to Europe.

Telegraphic communication is maintained by the Pacific Cable Board; there is also the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Limited, the latter no longer subsidised by the Government.

OLIVER PLUNKETT,

*Captain,
Acting Administrator.*

St. Lucia,

24th December, 1926.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1924, No. 1276 1s. 3d.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 .. 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 .. 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 .. 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290 .. 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 .. 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1924, No. 1268 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 .. 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHILES, 1924, No. 1272 .. 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1925, No. 1286 1s.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 .. 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 .. 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 .. 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 .. 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1924-25, No. 1284 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 .. 6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) .. 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial No. 15) .. 2s.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1327.

JAMAICA.



REPORT FOR 1925.

(For Reports for 1923 and 1924 see Nos. 1218 and 1276 respectively,
price 1s. 3d. each.)



PRINTED IN JAMAICA.

LONDON

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses :

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh ;

York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast ;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 1s. 0d. Net.

JAMAICA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER. 1925.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an Island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, situated between $17^{\circ} 43'$ and $18^{\circ} 32'$ N. lat. and $76^{\circ} 11'$ and $78^{\circ} 20' 50''$ W. long. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, the extreme length being 144 miles, the greatest width 49 miles, and the least width (from Kingston to Annotto Bay) $21\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:-

<i>Surrey.</i>		<i>Middlesex.</i>		<i>Cornwall.</i>	
	Sq. Mls.		Sq. Mls.		Sq. Mls.
Kingston	.. $7\frac{3}{4}$	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	$473\frac{1}{2}$
St. Andrew	.. 183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	.. $298\frac{1}{2}$	Clarendon	487	St. James	$239\frac{1}{2}$
Portland	.. 338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	.. $827\frac{1}{4}$		2,060		1,563

giving a total of $4,540\frac{1}{4}$ square miles, equal to 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately, 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat, consisting of alluvium marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison, it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the English Counties of Kent, Middlesex and Surrey, by about the extent of Norfolk. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 203 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, Spain, Turkey or Russia. The Colony with its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area and contains nearly half of the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable. From a tropical temperature of 80° to 86° on the sea coast, the thermometer falls to 45° and 50° at the tops of the highest mountains, and with a dryness of temperature that renders the climate of the mountains of Jamaica particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. The midland parts of the island are the highest. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, there runs the great central mountain chain which trends generally in an east and west direction, the highest part of which is the Blue Mountain Peak attaining an altitude of 7,388 ft. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies and is rather more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the Central Range subordinate ridges or spurs run both to the north and south coasts of the island; these ridges in their turn are the

parents of other smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method; and they again throw off other ridges, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams give the derivation of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of these streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. In Jamaica there are many mineral springs, some of them possessing valuable qualities for the cure of various diseases and infirmities of the body. The two principal are the spring at Bath in the parish of St. Thomas and the spring at Milk River in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs possess radio-active properties, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several good harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, which is considered one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of about 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

HISTORICAL.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596 and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance on the 11th May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town), became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections, as well as wars with the maroons, or mountaineers, the descendents of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant

of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000 chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorised from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

10. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, in 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

11. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

12. A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

13. By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote); five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

14. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty; but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

15. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

parents of other smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method; and they again throw off other ridges, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams give the derivation of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of these streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. In Jamaica there are many mineral springs, some of them possessing valuable qualities for the cure of various diseases and infirmities of the body. The two principal are the spring at Bath in the parish of St. Thomas and the spring at Milk River in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs possess radio-active properties, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several good harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, which is considered one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of about 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

HISTORICAL.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596 and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance on the 11th May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town), became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections, as well as wars with the maroons, or mountaineers, the descendents of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant

of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000 chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorised from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

10. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, in 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

11. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

12. A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

13. By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote); five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

14. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty; but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

15. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

Local Administration.

16. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

17. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own parochial institutions, viz.: poor houses, etc., managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1925 was 8,060, being at the rate of 8.8 per thousand of population. The several direct taxes levied on property, motor cars, horses, carriages, etc., etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected with the exception of a few items which go to the credit of the General Revenue of the Colony.

Judicial.

18. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. There are also the Kingston Court—"to transact the civil jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrates' Courts for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew"—and Resident Magistrate's Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

19. As will be observed under Head III.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry—and the sub-head "Imports and Exports," there was a marked improvement in the trade of the Colony during the year 1925 as compared with the preceding year, both in the volume and the value of articles imported and exported.

20. Conditions for agricultural production have, on the whole, been favourable. The chief staple, bananas, achieved a "record" of 15,000,000 stems exported—an increase of 3,000,000 stems on the quantity exported during 1924. Rum showed an increase of about 3,000 puncheons over the exports for 1924. The quantity of Sugar exported during the year amounted approximately to 38,000 tons as compared with 23,000 tons in 1924. Coffee showed an increase from 2,600 tons to 5,200 tons and the prices obtained were, on the whole, good. There were also welcome increases in the exports of ginger, grapefruit, pimento and honey.

21. A noteworthy development was the acquisition by a British Syndicate, under the Chairmanship of His Grace the Duke of Atholl, of several properties in the eastern section of the Island on which a large central Sugar Factory on up-to-date lines has now been erected. As Officer Administering the Government I had the honour of being present at the opening ceremony. It is earnestly to be hoped that this enterprise will meet with the success it undoubtedly deserves.

22. On the invitation of the Jamaica Imperial Association, a Parliamentary Delegation, comprising members of both Houses, visited the Island in January. The Delegation consisted of the Rt. Hon. J. H.

Thomas, Hons. C. C. Ammon, R. J. G. Boothby, Rt. Hon. V. Hartshorn, Lord Lamington, Lt.-Col. Sir M. M. Buller, Lord Newton, the Earl of Strafford, Colonel H. C. Woodcock, Major A. J. Edmondson and Sir Howard d'Egville (Secretary of the Empire Parliamentary Association). The Delegation made a tour of a portion of the Island and a banquet was given in their honour at which the Governor, Brig.-Genl. Sir S. H. Wilson, presided and at which the Admiral Commanding the North America and West Indies Squadron was present as a guest.

The visit of this Delegation is a unique event in the history of the Colony and it is felt here that such visits cannot but tend to strengthen the bonds of loyalty to the Mother Country which already exist to a marked degree among all sections of the community.

23. Coinciding with the visit of the Parliamentary Delegation was a visit paid to Jamaica by the Rt. Hon. James Ramsay MacDonald for the purpose of recuperating his health. The ex-Premier was on the day of his arrival, entertained at luncheon by the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and Merchants' Exchange at which the Governor presided.

24. I am glad to say that Jamaica was able again to participate in the British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley.

25. I was specially invited by the Committee of Management to visit the West Indian Pavilion before coming out to assume duty as Colonial Secretary and it gives me pleasure to record that the Colony made a very creditable showing, taking into account the comparatively small amount of money which the Committee of Management had at its disposal.

26. The Hons. Wm. Morrison, G. S. Ewen and R. Nosworthy, (Collector General), Mr. Wm. Wilson, O.B.E., and Mr. C. E. Johnston, went on delegation to represent Jamaica at a Conference held at Ottawa in June in connection with the improvement of trade relations between the Dominion of Canada and the British West Indian Colonies, Bermuda, British Guiana and British Honduras. This Conference resulted in the signing of a Trade Agreement by the representatives of the various Governments and it is hoped that by this agreement, which provides, *inter alia*, for preferential tariffs and improved steamship communication, the trade between the Dominion of Canada and these Colonies will greatly increase to the material advantage of all concerned. The Agreement was ratified by the Legislative Council of this Colony on 22nd October, after an interesting debate.

27. A General Election for the Legislative Council was held in the early part of the year when the following representatives were elected:

Hon. A. E. DaCosta, M.B.E., for the parish of Kingston		
" G. Seymour Seymour	do.	St. Andrew
" J. H. Phillipps	do.	St. Thomas
" Dr. E. V. W. Mellad	do.	Portland
" & Revd. A. A. Barclay	do.	St. Mary
" D. T. Wint	do.	St. Ann
" G. S. Ewen	do.	Trelawny
" P. F. Lightbody	do.	St. James
" C. W. Hewitt	do.	Hanover
" F. R. Evans	do.	Westmoreland
" A. G. Nash	do.	Manchester
" P. W. Sangster	do.	St. Elizabeth
" J. A. G. Smith	do.	Clarendon
" T. J. Cawley	do.	St. Catherine

28. His Majesty's Ships "Calcutta," "Capetown" and "Curlew," which form a part of the North America and West Indies Cruiser Squadron, paid several visits to the Colony during the year. These periodical visits are much appreciated.

29. A group of members of the St. Louis (U.S.A.) Chamber of Commerce paid a flying visit to Jamaica towards the end of February.

30. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Civil Service of the Colony:

Sir St. John Branch, Chief Justice of this Colony was appointed Chief Justice of Ceylon and left Jamaica in January to take up that appointment. He was succeeded by Mr. F. C. A. Barrett-Lennard, a Puisne Judge of the Straits Settlements.

Major Lewis Thomas, O.B.E., retired from the position of Director of the Railway and was succeeded by Mr. J. Powter, General Manager of the Government Railway in Trinidad.

Mr. H. A. Josephs, K.C., LL.M., Asst. Attorney General, was appointed Attorney General of British Guiana.

Mr. H. Simms, M.V.O., was appointed Director of Public Works in succession to Mr. C. V. Espeut, appointed Director of Public Works, Federated Malay States.

Mr. W. E. Clark, Inspector General of Police, retired on pension and was succeeded by Mr. M. D. Harrel, formerly of Barbados.

I record with regret that Dr. E. L. Hunt, C.M.G., Superintending Medical Officer, died in England on the 29th of September, after holding office for less than 6 years. He was succeeded by Dr. B. M. Wilson, formerly of British Honduras.

Mr. Ellis Wolfe, Postmaster for Jamaica, retired on pension and Mr. R. H. Fletcher, Asst. Postmaster, was appointed Head of the Post Office Department as from the 1st of July, 1925. It is with much regret that I record Mr. Wolfe's death only two months later.

Mr. W. B. Isaacs, Island Treasurer, retired on pension during the year. Mr. W. M. Fraser, Deputy Treasurer, is now acting as Treasurer.

Mr. J. V. Leach, Mr. W. P. Clark and Mr. C. A. Bicknell, Resident Magistrates, also retired on pension.

Brig.-General Sir Samuel Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Governor of the Colony, went on leave on the 7th June and was subsequently appointed Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs, K.C.M.G., Governor of Hong Kong, was appointed to succeed him as Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica but owing to the disturbed condition of South China was unable to leave Hong Kong for some months and consequently did not assume his new office until April, 1926. On the departure of Sir Samuel Wilson, the Government of the Colony was administered by Colonel Sir Herbert Bryan, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonial Secretary, until the 24th of August, when he was granted three months' leave prior to retirement.

31. His Majesty the King was pleased to recognize the value of Col. Bryan's long services to the Empire, including eleven years as Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, by conferring upon him the dignity of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in June, 1925.

32. The writer of this report (Mr. A. S. Jelf of the Malayan Civil Service) was appointed to succeed him as Colonial Secretary.

33. After Sir Herbert Bryan's departure the Government was administered by Colonel Arthur Mudge, C.M.G., Colonel Commandant of the Troops in Jamaica, until my arrival.

34. Immediately on my arrival on 6th October by virtue of a Dormant Commission I assumed duties as Officer Administering the Government and continued to act as Governor of the Colony for the rest of the year.

35. Mr. C. W. Doorly, Assistant Colonial Secretary, acted efficiently as Colonial Secretary for the greater part of 1925 and until I assumed my substantive duties at the end of April, 1926.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

36. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The departures in 1923 were 7,778, in 1924, 7,284, and in 1925, 5,449. The arrivals in 1923 were 5,029, in 1924, 5,247, and in 1925, 4,924.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

37. Public interest in Health questions continues to increase, and this is especially noticeable in the areas where the International Health Board has been operating.

38. A marked decrease in the number of cases of Alastrim and Typhoid Fever is recorded during the year. The cause of the continuance of alastrim is due to the general mildness of the disease and also to the fact that many persons hide the cases or fail to report them.

39. A new Health Law, Law 18 of 1925, was enacted during the year under review. This Law, which came into force on the 1st January, 1926, consolidates and amends the various Health Laws of the Colony. As the title of the Law—"A Law to make provision for promoting the public health and for preventing the spread of communicable and epidemic diseases"—will indicate, it is of far-reaching importance and should, if its provisions are carefully enforced, be instrumental in improving the health conditions of the Colony.

40. Small localized epidemics of Malaria occurred at the end of the year on the flats formed by river mouths.

VITAL STATISTICS.

41. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1925 was 916,620, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at 31st December, 1924, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1925.

42. The number of marriages registered during 1925 was 3,738 the rate being 4.1 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.5 for 1924. During the same period 31,567 births were registered of which 15,855 were boys and 15,712 were girls. The birth rate works out at 34.6 per 1,000 as against 36.8 during 1924.

43. The number of deaths registered was 19,562 of which 9,618 were males and 9,944 females, the death rate being 21.5 per 1,000. The rate for 1924 was 21.7. During 1925, 7,060 or 36.1 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age; and of these 5,483 or 28.0 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures in 1924 were 35.5 per cent. and 27.3 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 17.3 per cent. as compared with 16.1 in 1924.

44. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston, were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 9.4; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the new born, 11.0; Phthisis, 9.2; Enteric Fever, 5.2; Pneumonia, 6.1; Heart Disease, 5.8; Chronic Bright's Disease, 4.3; Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy, 4.3.

28. His Majesty's Ships "Calcutta," "Capetown" and "Curlew," which form a part of the North America and West Indies Cruiser Squadron, paid several visits to the Colony during the year. These periodical visits are much appreciated.

29. A group of members of the St. Louis (U.S.A.) Chamber of Commerce paid a flying visit to Jamaica towards the end of February.

30. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Civil Service of the Colony:

Sir St. John Branch, Chief Justice of this Colony was appointed Chief Justice of Ceylon and left Jamaica in January to take up that appointment. He was succeeded by Mr. F. C. A. Barrett-Lennard, a Puisne Judge of the Straits Settlements.

Major Lewis Thomas, O.B.E., retired from the position of Director of the Railway and was succeeded by Mr. J. Powter, General Manager of the Government Railway in Trinidad.

Mr. H. A. Josephs, K.C., LL.M., Asst. Attorney General, was appointed Attorney General of British Guiana.

Mr. H. Simms, M.V.O., was appointed Director of Public Works in succession to Mr. C. V. Espeut, appointed Director of Public Works, Federated Malay States.

Mr. W. E. Clark, Inspector General of Police, retired on pension and was succeeded by Mr. M. D. Harrel, formerly of Barbados.

I record with regret that Dr. E. L. Hunt, C.M.G., Superintending Medical Officer, died in England on the 29th of September, after holding office for less than 6 years. He was succeeded by Dr. B. M. Wilson, formerly of British Honduras.

Mr. Ellis Wolfe, Postmaster for Jamaica, retired on pension and Mr. R. H. Fletcher, Asst. Postmaster, was appointed Head of the Post Office Department as from the 1st of July, 1925. It is with much regret that I record Mr. Wolfe's death only two months later.

Mr. W. B. Isaacs, Island Treasurer, retired on pension during the year. Mr. W. M. Fraser, Deputy Treasurer, is now acting as Treasurer.

Mr. J. V. Leach, Mr. W. P. Clark and Mr. C. A. Bicknell, Resident Magistrates, also retired on pension.

Brig.-General Sir Samuel Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Governor of the Colony, went on leave on the 7th June and was subsequently appointed Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs, K.C.M.G., Governor of Hong Kong, was appointed to succeed him as Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica but owing to the disturbed condition of South China was unable to leave Hong Kong for some months and consequently did not assume his new office until April, 1926. On the departure of Sir Samuel Wilson, the Government of the Colony was administered by Colonel Sir Herbert Bryan, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonial Secretary, until the 24th of August, when he was granted three months' leave prior to retirement.

31. His Majesty the King was pleased to recognize the value of Col. Bryan's long services to the Empire, including eleven years as Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, by conferring upon him the dignity of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in June, 1925.

32. The writer of this report (Mr. A. S. Jelf of the Malayan Civil Service) was appointed to succeed him as Colonial Secretary.

33. After Sir Herbert Bryan's departure the Government was administered by Colonel Arthur Mudge, C.M.G., Colonel Commandant of the Troops in Jamaica, until my arrival.

34. Immediately on my arrival on 6th October by virtue of a Dormant Commission I assumed duties as Officer Administering the Government and continued to act as Governor of the Colony for the rest of the year.

35. Mr. C. W. Doorly, Assistant Colonial Secretary, acted efficiently as Colonial Secretary for the greater part of 1925 and until I assumed my substantive duties at the end of April, 1926.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

36. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The departures in 1923 were 7,778, in 1924, 7,284, and in 1925, 5,449. The arrivals in 1923 were 5,029, in 1924, 5,247, and in 1925, 4,924.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

37. Public interest in Health questions continues to increase, and this is especially noticeable in the areas where the International Health Board has been operating.

38. A marked decrease in the number of cases of Alastrim and Typhoid Fever is recorded during the year. The cause of the continuance of alastrim is due to the general mildness of the disease and also to the fact that many persons hide the cases or fail to report them.

39. A new Health Law, Law 18 of 1925, was enacted during the year under review. This Law, which came into force on the 1st January, 1926, consolidates and amends the various Health Laws of the Colony. As the title of the Law—"A Law to make provision for promoting the public health and for preventing the spread of communicable and epidemic diseases"—will indicate, it is of far-reaching importance and should, if its provisions are carefully enforced, be instrumental in improving the health conditions of the Colony.

40. Small localized epidemics of Malaria occurred at the end of the year on the flats formed by river mouths.

VITAL STATISTICS.

41. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1925 was 916,620, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at 31st December, 1924, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1925.

42. The number of marriages registered during 1925 was 3,738 the rate being 4.1 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.5 for 1924. During the same period 31,567 births were registered of which 15,855 were boys and 15,712 were girls. The birth rate works out at 34.6 per 1,000 as against 36.8 during 1924.

43. The number of deaths registered was 19,562 of which 9,618 were males and 9,944 females, the death rate being 21.5 per 1,000. The rate for 1924 was 21.7. During 1925, 7,060 or 36.1 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age; and of these 5,483 or 28.0 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures in 1924 were 35.5 per cent. and 27.3 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 17.3 per cent. as compared with 16.1 in 1924.

44. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston, were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 9.4; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the new born, 11.0; Phthisis, 9.2; Enteric Fever, 5.2; Pneumonia, 6.1; Heart Disease, 5.8; Chronic Bright's Disease, 4.3; Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy, 4.3.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

45. Although it cannot be said that the Colony's trade at the end of the year 1925 was in a flourishing condition, yet there is every evidence of a marked improvement in the conditions which prevailed during the previous year. The value of the Imports (exclusive of articles imported through the Parcels Post) reached a total of £5,386,435 as against £4,827,074 in 1924, shewing an increase of £559,361. Almost the whole of this increase can be traced to Class III. Manufactured Articles, due to an ever-growing demand for such things as Boots and Shoes, Motor Vehicles, Cotton Goods, Machinery, Bags and Sacks, and Wood Hoops and Shooks. With regard to the sources of supply, Canada continues to be our chief provider of Foodstuffs (36%), the United States of America provides 70% of our Raw materials and the United Kingdom has held her own in Class III. (45.4%).

46. Very appreciable increases are noticeable in Petrol, Rice, Cigarettes and Lumber, whilst on the other hand decreases are seen under Corn, Flour, Meal, Salt, Soap and Leaf Tobacco. The reaping of a good crop of local provisions contributed largely to the decrease in importation of Foodstuffs and a successful experiment in the growing of a native "Virginia" Leaf Tobacco lessened our demand for the foreign product. The importation of nearly ten million lbs. of Fish (Dried Salted) and fifteen million lbs. of Rice, both showing over a million lbs. increase, proves how the taste for these commodities has grown on the peasantry who sell their home-grown provisions and purchase the imported article.

47. Worthy of comment also is the rapid and steady increase in the number of motor cars imported into this Colony. In 1925 no less than 832 cars were imported, being 280 more than the previous year; the value was £142,365. In addition there were accessories valued at £98,918 and 2,030,732 gallons of Petrol. Cars are exchanged so often for later models that the problem now confronting the various dealers is the disposal of the numerous used cars now on their hands.

48. A healthy sign is the increased importation of articles for packing Island Produce. In 1924 were imported Bags and Sacks to the value of £19,856 and Hoops and Shooks valued at £42,239, whilst in 1925 the importations were £71,282 and £74,730, respectively. Due allowance however must be made for the increase in price of these articles. There were also slight increases in the importations of Agricultural Machinery and Implements.

49. After five years of special preference afforded to British Cotton Piece Goods, it is now learnt that the American article has once more gained the ascendancy. The growing demand for the cheaper cloths largely favoured by the working classes has resulted in an increase of nearly 8 million yards making a total importation of 23,448,508 yards. Of these the American source was the more responsive as, despite the 50% Preference given, their manufacturers were able to supply us with an article of superior quality and cheaper price than we could obtain elsewhere. Some British manufacturers tried to compete but failed both in quality and price, whilst the majority made no attempt, being content to specialize in the more expensive cloths of higher grade. The following figures show the trade movement:
 1924. British 50.4%; Foreign 49.6% or 0.8% in favour of British.
 1925. British 42.%; Foreign 58% or 16% in favour of Foreign.

50. The yield from Import Duties in 1925 realized the sum of £866,871 which was £80,278 more than in 1924. Increased quantities of goods paying a specific rate of duty, such as Fish, Rice, Oils, Spirits and Tobacco, as well as of such expensive *ad valorem* articles as Boots and Shoes, Cotton Piece Goods and Motor Vehicles and their accessories, were the contributing factors. Decreases in Revenue occurred in respect of Import Duty collected on Corn, Flour and Meal, owing to lessened importations due to a better crop of native foodstuffs. The decrease in imports of Kerosene Oil is not to be deplored as it points to the more general use of Electric Light and appliances, a sign of progress.

51. The Package Duty yielded £54,339, being slightly below the yield of the previous year. Some importers still continue to circumvent payment by having small articles banded together to form one package. They thus keep to the *letter* but not to the *spirit* of the law.

52. The Export Trade also showed some improvement towards the latter part of the year; better prices were obtained for some of our staples, and the value rose above that of 1924, being £3,915,000 as against £3,122,961, or an increase of £792,039. In 1924 eleven chief staples realized a sum of £2,787,396 or 89% of the total; in 1925 the same products were valued at £3,528,735 or 90.1% and had Logwood Extract kept up with the others the increase would have been greater. This commodity shows a decline of £98,403.

53. With regard to quantities it is found that we exported over three million more stems of bananas, evidence that the production is regaining its pre-war standard. We also exported nearly two million more Grape Fruit, five million more Coconuts, 400,000 more gallons of Rum and 15,000 more tons of Sugar.

54. The markets to which we sent our Exports did not vary much. The United Kingdom took 26.4% of the total, chiefly Cocoa, Logwood Extract and Rum; Canada claimed 21.3% comprised mainly of Coffee and Sugar; the United States of America absorbed 40.7% consisting mostly of fruit and coconuts and the remaining 11.6% went to Other Countries who took Pimento (France and Germany), Tobacco (China and Panama) and Dyewoods (France and Germany).

55. On the whole, the trade of the Colony is fairly satisfactory. We have practically recovered from the effects of the Great War and there is indication of a brighter future in production, remuneration and transport facilities. Great efforts have been made to improve our Empire Trade though not necessarily to the detriment of Foreign Trade, and although the results have not been as fruitful as was expected, yet the enterprise has not been in vain. In the year under review the figures are as follows:—

Imports—British 53%; Foreign 47%.

Exports—British 48%; Foreign 52%.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

56. The following statement shows totals of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

1921-22.	1922-23.	Revenue. 1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
£	£	£	£	£
1,926,791	2,047,412	2,061,202	1,922,963	2,021,046

1921-22.	1922-23.	<i>Expenditure.</i> 1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
£	£	£	£	£
2,253,502	1,949,034	2,074,271	2,022,746	2,009,593

The total Expenditure during the year 1925-26 was £11,453 less than the total Revenue.

57. The assets and liabilities at 31st March, 1926, were £1,023,730 and £999,161 respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £24,569.

58. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1926, was £4,581,175. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £1,865,978. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, it will be seen that the difference (£2,715,197) exceeds by only £680,146 the estimated revenue for the current financial year (1926-27). As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

59. For the purposes of comparison, it may be interesting and instructive to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the National Debt of the United Kingdom and that of the Island of Jamaica in 1925.

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
		£	£
United Kingdom ..	48,000,00	7,665,880,145	159.7
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica	904,405	4,445,194	4.9

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1925, viz.: £1,708,700 be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £3 Os. 6d. The year 1924-25 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1925-26 are not available locally.

60. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounted to £225,261 of which £80,873 has been expended in 1925-26 by Resolutions of Council dated 26th November, 1924, and 23rd April, 1925, for repairing Main Roads damaged by flood rains in 1924, leaving a balance of 145,388 at 31st March, 1926. This fund is separate and apart from the Sinking Fund for the amortisation of the Public Debt.

TAXATION.

61. The following laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

(1) Law 1 of 1925, "A Law to continue various Expiring Laws." This Law continued in force from the 1st April, 1924 to the 31st March, 1926, the following Laws:—

- (a) The Post Office (War Tax Law 1919) (Law 7 of 1919).
- (b) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law 1919 (Law 9 of 1919).
- (c) The Excise Duties (Temporary Increase) Law 1920 (Law 9 of 1920).

(2) Law 4 of 1925, "A Law to Amend the Duties relating to Imports." This Law increased the rates of duty on Gasolene, Spirits, Wines, Leaf Tobacco and Cigarettes, removed from the Free List Fireworks and Fire Extinguishers which were made dutiable, and also Pans for boiling Sugar. Stills and parts and Telephone and Telephone Switchboards which were placed on a Partially Free Schedule (*i.e.*, British free, Foreign 5% *ad valorem*.) To this latter Schedule there were also added the following articles:—Aircraft, Articles for Church Usage and Decoration and Articles of Public Utility imported by the Electric Company.

(3) Law 14 of 1925, "A Law to abolish the imposition of a Supertax." This Law repealed the levy of a Supertax on properties.

CURRENCY.

62. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on 31st December, 1925, to the extent of £78,309 2s. 6d. in denominations of 2/6, 5/- and 10/-.

2/6 Notes.	5/ Notes.	10/ Notes.	Total.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
159 17 6	31,024 5 0	47,125 0 0	78,309 2 6

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

63. Below is a table showing the value of articles imported and exported during the past 40 years at intervals of 10 years:—

	1885 to 30.9.85	1895 to 31.3.96	1905 to 31.3.06	1915 to 31.12.15	1925 to 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports	1,413,722	1,873,106	1,843,180	2,228,644	3,915,000
Value of Imports	1,325,602	2,288,945	1,941,937	2,327,458	5,386,435

These figures show that great strides have been made in the Trade of the Colony, the value of our Exports and Imports having increased during the past forty years by 177% and 306.3% respectively. In the last decade, which is more important, the increases were:—Exports 75.6%, Imports 131.4%.

64. Our Import Trade has developed to a greater extent than our Export Trade and an examination of the details given below will disclose the facts:—

Countries of Origin and Destination.	Imports, 1925.	Exports, 1925.	Balance of Trade.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	1,631,916	1,032,649	599,267
United States of America ..	2,143,250	1,593,393	549,857
Canada ..	815,629	834,369	- 18,740
All Other Countries ..	795,640	454,589	341,051
Total ..	5,386,435	3,915,000	1,471,435

The Balance of Trade is thus shown as being £1,471,435 on the side of the Imports and is mainly due to the fact that we obtain from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the continent of Europe large quantities of merchandise, the raw materials for which are not supplied by the Island and this when added to Foodstuffs more than outweighs the Exports. There are, however, several factors which if taken into account would swell the Export figures. For example, Coal and large quantities of Ships' Stores are included in our Import figures but are not shown on the Export side. There are also several "invisible" factors" such as Army Disbursements of Imperial Funds, money spent by Tourists and remittances from Jamaicans working abroad, all of which add to the spending of the people and, incidentally, account for the major portion of the Import Surplus.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

65. Conditions for agricultural production were favourable during the year. The chief staple crop, bananas, showed an increase of over 3 million stems exported as compared with 1924. Panama Disease, largely due to the flood rains of November of the previous year which spread infection over wide areas of land, increased from 3,011 cases to 7,703 cases. In the parish of Portland a relaxation of the standard treatment under the Order has been adopted so as to reduce the economic loss from the quarantining of the disease.

66. Cacao remained steady but owing to the low price now obtainable this crop is no longer attractive to the planter.

67. The coconut trees all over the Island have made a welcome recovery in vigour as a result of more favourable weather and now look better than they have done for some years. The output of nuts showed a gain of over 4 million as compared with the previous year. Prices have fluctuated but, on the whole, the coconut industry has prospered.

68. Coffee shows a welcome increase from 2,600 to 5,200 tons and prices have been good. Coffee stands out as the product to which Jamaica should give special attention at the present juncture. The scope for large plantations is limited but the production of coffee by small settlers can be greatly extended to advantage.

69. Logwood and Logwood Extracts have been depressed during the year and there has been a marked falling off in the Exports.

70. Citrus fruits have shown some improvement. The exports of Grape-fruit increased by 60 per cent. The Canadian preference has

led to some trade with the Dominion and it is hoped that the demand for Grape-fruit from Jamaica will increased.

71. The seasons were favourable for the production of Honey which shows an increase of nearly 70 per cent. as compared with the previous year.

72. Pimento increased by about 50 per cent. due to favourable conditions for this crop.

73. The exports of Sugar were approximately 38,000 tons as compared with 23,000 tons in 1924.

The enormous increase in the Cuban production has greatly depressed the price of Sugar and the profit made on the good crop of 1925 was a small one. The greatest event of the year, as regards Sugar, was the erection of the large Central Factory in St. Thomas with English capital. Remarkable results have been obtained in the rapid development of cane cultivation in the area associated with this enterprise.

74. Rum showed an increase of nearly 3,000 puncheons, due to a revival in this trade. The Continental demand for high-flavoured blending rums was good and some record prices were obtained for rums with a high content of Compound Ethers.

75. Sisal Hemp is developing as an industry. The Government Factory at Lititz which operated for only half the year produced a crop of 113 tons of fibre which is expected to show a profit of £1,000 over the cost of operating the enterprise. In Clarendon the industry is progressing and large areas are being planted in this crop which is suitable for growing in dry districts.

The small Portable Machine invented by Mr. Anderson has been greatly improved and is reported to be doing good work. The success of this machine will enable Sisal fibre to be produced on moderate areas of land and is calculated to lead to a considerable extension of Sisal in Jamaica.

76. *Tick Destruction.* Nine more Dipping Tanks were constructed during the year bringing the total for the island to 258 tanks. The Government Laboratory continued to supply Paranaph and Arsenite of Soda to the public at cost for use in the Dipping Tanks.

77. The Hope Farm had a successful year and realised a gross revenue of £6,484 out of which substantial improvements were effected in stock and equipment. A Champion Red Poll bull from the United States of America and the First Prize Devon bull from the Royal Show in England were imported during the year. The well-known English thoroughbred Stallion "Lembach" was also imported by the Hope Farm and sent to Grove Place to replace the Stallion "Water Jacket."

78. Two outbreaks of Anthrax, one in St. Catherine and the other in St. Thomas, were dealt with during the year.

79. A recurrence of Foot and Mouth Disease broke out at "Belle Isle" in Westmoreland on May 29. The outbreak was dealt with by slaughter. On the 15th July a further outbreak was discovered at "Cornwall" and "Shewsbury" Estates. As the extent of the infection was likely to be large, slaughter was not adopted in this case but the quarantine enforced was so successful that no cases spread outside the infected herds. The quarantine was removed, except as regards the actually infected areas in Westmoreland, by an Order of 5th January, 1926.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

80. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military

Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is, however, estimated to contain 2,848,160 acres, of which 2,564,337 acres have been alienated, leaving 283,823 un-alienated or in process of alienation, about 10,000 acres of which is morass land.

81. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (*i.e.*, to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result, that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

82. The abolition of slavery in 1838, and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

83. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons, without any legal or equitable title, and in this way upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold, and some still remain in possession of the Government.

84. During the year 1890, the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Company, one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give them one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who then purchased it for £18,435.

85. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 297 time-expired East Indian Immigrants 3,300 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

86. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1925, 44,024 acres have been sold, and put in possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The most notable grant made during the past twelve months, is 191 acres to one purchaser for £140. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received title from the Government.

87. There are large numbers of praedial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum. While the value of private property has increased in certain localities to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation. These prices were in existence long before the outbreak of war in 1914, the lands being for the most part in remote situations and difficult of access.

88. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the

natural resources of the Island, little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889 and Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E. D. M. Hooper of the Indian Forestry Department in 1886.

89. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

90. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the Local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. We have it on the authority of Mr. Hooper that it is an undoubted fact that the forests are becoming poorer and the area under hardwoods smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture, materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 39 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and their efforts are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

91. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place here to state that in 1511 the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

92. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known because, in 1597 Pedro d'Aena, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appear to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians through Spanish cruelty, and epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

93. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century, but none of those efforts was, so far as is known, directed towards prospecting on the Crown Lands, but all to properties long since alienated from the Crown.

94. Although not connected with Crown Lands, it might be of some interest here to state that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper

Mine in Clarendon nearly 70 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817, the highest price paid being £24 15s. 0d. per ton and the lowest £9 2s. 9d. the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

95. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite," were found at Lichfield Mountain in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield Mountain was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

96. During the year 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., who was then Government Geologist, reported the discovery of the issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of Saint Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subjects are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette, dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th Januray, 1925.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS.

97. No geological surveys were undertaken during the year under review.

FISHING.

98. This industry, which is regarded as an important and lucrative one in every Maritime Country, continues to languish in this Colony, with the result that there is a marked shortage in the fresh fish diet. The price of fresh fish is exorbitantly high and the public complains, but no improvement seems likely to take place until the industry is properly organized and controlled. With all but one of the fourteen parishes of the Island bordering on the sea, and 400 miles of seaboard, it is hard to understand why the bulk of fish consumed should be imported in the cured state.

99. Transport facilities, both on land and sea, have greatly increased in recent years, but are not being taken advantage of and the supply is precarious and below the demand. It seems therefore, that there is room for expansion of the industry if handled on intelligent lines instead of the haphazard and antiquated methods at present employed.

100. As a sport, good facilities are offered both on sea and on the larger rivers, and visitors occasionally indulge in the pastime. It only needs better advertisement to make it more attractive.

MANUFACTURES.

101. The principal items of manufacture are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Sisal, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars, Cigarettes, Leather, Logwood Extract and Matches.

102. *Sugar*.—Prospects have brightened somewhat for this industry and with favourable seasons and better prices, it is no longer in a parlous condition. In 1925 we exported nearly 15,000 tons more than in the preceding year.

103. *Rum*.—The Rum Industry also improved considerably and apart from a steady local demand our exports continued to improve to the extent of nearly 400,000 gallons.

104. *Copra*.—The manufacture of Copra again fell off during 1925 though the decrease was less than in the previous year. The Exports amounted to 3,509,211 lbs. There was, however, a substantial increase in the export of the raw product, coconuts (4,813,384).

105. *Sisal*.—This has improved slightly and with the advent of new portable decorticating machine the cost of production has been lessened and bright prospects are anticipated.

106. *Banana Figs*.—Better prices are being obtained for this article and the erection of a large new factory points to its being manufactured on a substantial scale in the future, with a view to supplying both local and foreign markets.

107. *Orange Oil*.—A slight increase both in quantity and value was evident during 1925.

108. *Cigars and Cigarettes*.—Cigars are still commanding a fair market both at home and abroad, and various factors have tended to lessen the cost of production.

Cigarettes, a bye-product of the Cigar, are at a low ebb and cannot compete with the imported article.

109. *Lea her*.—The tanneries at various centres in the Island still continue to supply local tradesmen with good leather, both sole and harness. 22,189 lbs. were exported.

110. *Matches*.—This is another industry that experiences great difficulty in making headway against the imported article.

111. *Logwood Extract*.—This industrys offered another relapse during 1925, the manufacturers having found it expedient to cease operations during the year. It is hoped to re-start the manufacture of the extract at an early date.

112. *Minor Industries*.—Chief among these must be mentioned Soap. A factory has commenced operations and the management hope to produce articles of a high standard.

Other minor industries include Jippi Jappa Hats, Baskets, and similar manufactures, some of which are exported.

WATER POWER.

113. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., for the purposes of operating the tramways and electric lighting of Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

114. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has been under consideration, and an investigation of many of the rivers in the Island has been made with this object in view. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

115. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew, but this scheme is likely to be postponed for some time, for financial reasons. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

116. The Commerical Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

117. The value of the local notes of each bank outstanding at 31st December, 1925, was as follows:—

	£
B Barclay's Bank—Dominion Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	109,247
The Bank of Nova Scotia	26,997
The Royal Bank of Canada	24,396
The Canadian Bank of Commerce	5,093

These Banks all have Head Offices for the Island in Kingston.

B Barclay's Bank in addition to its Head Office, in Kingston, has Sub-branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Golden Grove, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Sav.-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has Sub-branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Sav.-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has only two Sub-branches in addition to its Head Office at Kingston, namely at Cross Roads and Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no Sub-branches.

118. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870 and is still in operation. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits $2\frac{1}{2}\%$. When, however, the commercial Banks entered the field by starting Savings Branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial Banks, namely 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 70 branches and postal agencies throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to its re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following facts:—

(a) Balance at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1924, £541,841.

(b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734, and in 1924 to £531,292.

(c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919 was £964, and in 1924 accumulated profits for four years amounting to £18,032 were paid into General Revenue.

119. Under Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica (4) on deposits in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council. Under the provisions of this Law, funds have from time to time been provided for loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, both for the ordinary purposes of such societies and also for the development of Land Settlement Schemes.

120. *Co-Operative Loan Banks.*—There are 54 Co-Operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917,

These loans were made through the Agricultural Loans Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, *e.g.*, for the purpose of stock, cane mills, tools, and the like. These Banks have supplied a long-felt want among the small settlers.

121. The following figures, referring to 36 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Total loans made to 31st December, 1925	£116,906
Repayments do do	98,942
Balances outstanding	17,964

122. The Co-Operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1924, a sum of £37,440 share capital in addition to £98,942 loan moneys repaid with interest. These figures may be taken as an indication that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove to be of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. £55,774 has been loaned to eight Banks under this head.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

123. Twenty-two Laws were passed during the year 1925 and a brief summary is given below of those which may be considered to be of general interest:—

- (1) Law 2 of 1925. A Law to amend an Act to consolidate and amend the Statute Laws relating to Larceny and other similar offences. This Law improves legislation dealing with fraudulent misappropriation of property.
- (2) Law 3 of 1925. A Law relating to the summary jurisdiction of Magistrates. This Law allows of time being given for the payment of fines in cases tried in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, as defined in Section 3 of the Law.
- (3) Law 4 of 1925. A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to duties on Imports. This Law repeals the other Laws dealing with the tariff on goods imported into the Island and imposes a new rate of duties to be levied on such importations.
- (4) Law 8 of 1925. A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the importation of cattle and other animals suffering from contagious and infectious diseases. This Law specially deals with the importation, inspection and quarantine of imported animals. Section 28 provides that the Law shall come into operation upon such day as the Governor shall notify by Proclamation. No such Proclamation has yet been issued.
- (5) Law 10 of 1925. A Law to prevent the introduction and spread of plant disease. This Law deals with the powers given for dealing with disease among plants.
- (6) Law 11 of 1925. A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Government Savings Bank. This Law consolidates the Government Savings Bank Law and the Savings

Bank Unclaimed Deposits Law into one Law, and makes provision for the carrying to a separate account of deposits unclaimed after a period of five years. It also establishes a Reserve Fund.

- (7) Law 12 of 1925. A Law relating to Passports. This Law strengthens the provisions for the issuing of passports. Under this Law no alien coming to the Island can land unless he has a passport visaed by the British Consul or Vice-Consul in the country from which he embarks.
- (8) Law 15 of 1925. A Law to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Shop Assistants. Under this Law all shops as defined in Section 9 have to open and close as is defined therein.
- (9) Law 17 of 1925. A Law to enable the Governor to prohibit the exportation from the Island of any living plant or seeds. This Law gives the Governor power not only to prohibit the exportation of any plant from the Island but to restrict and regulate such exportation.
- (10) Law 18 of 1925. A Law to make provision for promoting the public health and preventing the spread of communicable and epidemic diseases. This Law provides for more effective central control of health. Special reference thereto is made under the sub-head "Public Health and Sanitation."
- (11) Law 19 of 1925. A Law to provide for the appointment of a Tourist Trade Development Board and to define the powers and duties of such Board in relation to increasing and adequately providing facilities for tourists and as to measures to be adopted for attracting them to the Island and generally for the improvement of the passenger services to the Island for such purposes. This Law merely re-establishes the Tourist Trade Development Board which was appointed under Law 15 of 1922 and continues the operation of the Board.
- (12) Law 20 of 1925. A Law to amend a Law entitled The Bills of Exchange Law, 1893, with respect to the time for noting Bills. By the amendment the noting of a Bill may be done on the day of its dishonour and must be done not later than the next succeeding business day.
- (13) Law 22 of 1925. A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Petroleum and Oil Fuel. This Law provides for the landing and method of stowing oil fuel, and enables the Governor to grant permission to erect or use a store for the storage thereof. It also provides for the granting of licenses to persons to deal in or sell petroleum.

VII.—EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY.

124. Attendances at the Public Elementary Schools during the past year showed a considerable advance on those of previous years, the average number on the registers being 117,874 for 1925, as compared with 113,293 in 1924, and the average attendance 73,508 as compared with 68,408 in 1924.

125. Attention to school garden work, Friday sessions and supervision, three prominent features of the new system, continued to show improvement, but progress in these respects is far from satisfactory.

126. Courses of instruction in school garden work, and manual training were again suspended owing to the necessity for rigid economy.

127. The sum of £1,550 was disbursed during the year in Building Grants for schools and teachers' dwellings, but this, as usual in recent years, enabled only the most urgent cases to be helped, the total of applications amounting to over five times that sum.

128. The total departmental expenditure continued to rise and for the year was £155,611 as compared with £151,903 in 1924.

SECONDARY.

129. The endowed Secondary Schools, which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission, and some unendowed schools, were inspected and in all cases the reports recommended the continuance of the Grants-in-Aid. The number of aided Secondary Schools remained at 16. The results of the public examinations continued to compare favourably with those of similar schools elsewhere.

130. Jamaica was again constituted a centre for holding several examinations of the University of London, and candidates were successful in passing the Matriculation, the Intermediate Examination in Arts and the final in Arts.

TECHNICAL.

131. The Government Technical and Continuation School in Kingston continued to do good work, though handicapped during the last term, by the absence on leave of the Head Master prior to retirement and the illness during the same period of the Head of the Technical Department who had been appointed to act as Head Master.

132. The Manual Training Classes attached to Government Schools in country towns were in most cases in operation during the year, doing useful work. The classes attached to four schools were temporarily closed.

133. The Continuation and Domestic Training School at Carron Hall, under the Presbyterian Church, has made an excellent start and is serving a long felt need. A beginning has also been made with a Continuation School for girls near Highgate under the Friends' Mission.

INDUSTRIAL.

134. No new Industrial Schools or Homes were opened during the year, but those already in existence continued to do useful work in vocational training for boys and girls who would otherwise be uncared for.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

RAINFALL.

135. The Mean Rainfall for the four Divisions of the Island, for the year 1925 was 61.03 inches, which shews a deficiency of about 20 per cent. below the 50-year average of 76.46 inches, and was most pronounced in the Northern Division, where it was 30 per cent. below normal. For the Island, generally, the months of January, March, May, June, July, August, October and December were much below, whilst February, April, September and November, above normal.

There were 113 rainy days, as an average, for the twelve months. The first half of the year was 5 inches below, and the latter half 10 inches below normal. The rainfall for Kingston was 18.74 inches, as against the 50-year normal of 33.59 inches, shewing a large deficiency.

TEMPERATURE.

136. At Kingston, the mean temperature for the twelve months was 78.1 degrees, which represents 0.6 degree below the 33-year normal of 78.7 degrees. The highest maximum for the year was 93.8 degrees in October, and the lowest minimum of 62.1 degrees occurred in January.

HUMIDITY.

137. For the year the mean humidity for Kingston was 82 per cent. for the 7 a.m. observations, the normal being 81 per cent.; and 63 per cent. for the 3 p.m. set, the normal being 66 per cent., or generally, about 2 per cent. below the 33-year normal, owing partly to rainfall deficiency.

WEATHER DISTURBANCES.

138. The hurricane season passed by without any depressions having been reported from any region in the Caribbean, beyond a disturbance of small intensity appearing on 6th April to the north-east of Negril Point, moving on a track through eastern Cuba.

"NORTHERS."

139. "Northers" were experienced at Kingston in March and November; Negril Point in February, March and December; and at Morant Point in November and December.

HAILSTORMS.

140. Hail fell at Negril Point on 22nd April; and at Christiana on 2nd July, also on 2nd, 8th and 25th August as well as on 7th October.

EARTHQUAKES.

141. Slight local shocks were noted in March, April, June and October. A sharp shock occurred on 10th December, which was felt throughout the Island being of greater intensity in the eastern half.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

RAILWAY.

142. The Jamaica Government Railway, main and branch lines, is $210\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay— $112\frac{3}{4}$ Miles.

(b) Spanish Town ($11\frac{3}{4}$ Miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio— $63\frac{1}{4}$ Miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(I) From May Pen Junction ($32\frac{1}{2}$ Miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

(II) From Bog Walk ($20\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton— $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

(III) From Linstead ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch line) to New Works—3 miles. There are no passenger trains over this Branch.

The main lines run across the high mountains which form the back-bone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being north-east, and Montego Bay north-west, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines run into rich agricultural districts near the centre of the island.

Gauge 4' 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The maximum gradients are 1 in 30—maximum curves 5 chains.

The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,680 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is Highgate, 844 feet.

143. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1925, was £313,613, and the expenditure £267,916. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment.

144. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 296,944 tons, as compared with 218,621 tons for the year 1924; the number of passengers carried in 1925 was 476,850, against 455,270 in 1924.

145. The extension from Chapelton to Frankfield was completed and opened for traffic on 18th March, 1925.

146. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of ten members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government when necessary on matters of policy.

SHIPPING.

147. The following Summary shows the volume of Shipping during the past five years:—

1921 entered	1,339	Vesse.s of	1,753,262 tons
1922 "	1,365	"	1,920,114 "
1923 "	1,323	"	2,011,500 "
1924 "	1,306	"	2,056,496 "
1925 "	1,412	"	2,207,618 "
1921 cleared	1,279	"	1,719,496 "
1922 "	1,340	"	1,927,183 "
1923 "	1,335	"	2,005,711 "
1924 "	1,299	"	2,054,100 "
1925 "	1,401	"	2,183,663 "

148. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—*British Register*.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, the Webster Steamship Line and the Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Co. (The two last named companies are registered in Jamaica). Messrs. Elders and Fyffes, though nominally of British registration, are in fact owned, with the exception of a few hundred pounds out of a capital of one million sterling, by the American United Fruit Co. or their Directors.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., The Columbian Steamship Co., and the Alexander Shipping Co.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands West Indies Co.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co. and the Deutsche Dampschiffahrts Gesellschaft Kosmos Line.

Cuban.—The Empresa Naviera de Cuba Line.

Compared with the previous year this is an increase of 1 foreign line.

149. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year under review.

ROADS.

150. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes: (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,266 miles, which are maintained from the General Revenue of the Colony; and (b) Parochial Roads, amounting to 4,366 miles of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles which may be described as cart or bridle roads. The latter classes of roads are maintained by the Parochial Boards from funds derived from local rates.

151. During the calendar year 1925, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £116 per mile, including cost of restoring Flood Damages.

With few exceptions, these roads were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing motor traffic requirements of the present day. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use of motor vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are being gradually improved so as to enable them to carry loads of 6 tons with safety. Up to the end of the year under review, about 39 miles of roads have been improved and tar sprayed.

CANALS.

152. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

IRRIGATION.

153. There is a system of irrigation canals which convey water from the Rio Cobre River to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards per hour and is approximately, 6 miles long; subsidiary channels, of which there is a total length of 42 miles, convey the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which about 20,000 acres are now under irrigation. An extension of this has now been sanctioned by Law.

In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey the water by gravity to irrigate several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry 10,000 cubic yards per hour.

154. Irrigation of the plains of the south side of the Island is a pressing need.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE AND AERIAL SERVICES.

155. The Government Island Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1924 there were 1,099½ miles of telegraph and telephone

lines, with 61 Telegraph and 82 Telephone Offices. No further extensions of lines or opening of new offices were authorized during the year.

156. The charge for telegrams throughout the Island is 9d. for the first twelve words, plus half-penny for each additional word after the first twelve.

157. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of, approximately, half the above charges.

158. An all-night and holiday telegraph service is provided throughout the Island, on payment of graduated fees.

159. The Railway Telegraph System, in connection with which there are 39 offices, assist considerably in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Island Telegraph System, but are controlled by the Management of the Jamaica Government Railway.

160. The number of ordinary and official messages signalled in 1924 numbered 316,735; the receipts totalled £17,222. In 1925, 335,068 telegrams were despatched and the revenue received amounted to £19,137.

161. There are two Wireless Transmitting Stations in the Island. One is situated at Christiana and was established by the Royal Navy during the late war. This station does not now accept traffic for or from any point. The other station is situated in Kingston and is controlled and operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government license. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600-metre wave. Numerous wireless receiving stations have been established (under Government License) throughout the Island, by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and near-by Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station at present exists in the Island.

162. There is at present no Aerial Service in connection with this Colony.

163. Efficient and speedy communication with all parts of the outside world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

164. The cable of the former company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S. at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West India Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

165. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd. maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting Companies who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

166. No Public Works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out during the year under

review. Work was started in 1924 upon the construction of a dam at Hermitage in the hills to the north of Kingston in connection with a scheme for the improvement of the water supply of Kingston. Work was also started on the reconstruction of the streets of Kingston for which provision was made by Laws 25 and 36 of 1923, but progress was slow.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

167. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price.	Where obtainable.
	s. d.	
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually) ..	8 0	Edward Stanford, Ltd., 12, 13. and 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1924 ..	2 0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise ..	1 0	Superintendent of the Govern- ment Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1 0	ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919 ..	2 6	ditto
Notes on the Geography of Jamaica, 1913 by Maxwell Hall ..	1 0	ditto
Education Code, 1921 ..	1 0	ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923)	2 0	ditto
Proceedings of the Ninth West-India Agricultural Conference (1925)	2 6	ditto
Historic Jamaica (1915)	2 6	The West India Committee, Lon- don.

A. S. JELF,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretariat, Jamaica.
9th July, 1926.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1924, No. 1276 1s. 3d.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 .. 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 .. 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 .. 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 .. 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1924, No. 1272 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 .. 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 .. 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 .. 2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1924-25, No. 1284 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) .. 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial No. 16) .. 2s.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

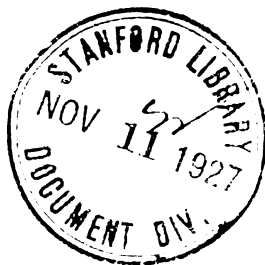
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1328.

NORTHERN TERRITORIES
OF THE
GOLD COAST.

REPORT FOR 1925-26.

*(For Report for 1923-24, see No. 1229 (Price 9d.), and
for Report for 1924-25, see No. 1284 (Price 1s.)).*



Printed in the Gold Coast.

LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses :

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh ;

York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast ;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 1s. 0d. Net.

INDEX—ANNUAL REPORT, 1925-26.

<i>Head.</i>	<i>Description of Head.</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. FINANCE	5
II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES	6
III. LEGISLATION	8
IV. EDUCATION	8
V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	9
VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.	10
VII. VITAL STATISTICS	11
VIII. POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS	12
IX. RELIGION	13
X. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	14
XI. POLITICAL	15-16
XII. NATIVE AFFAIRS	17-18
XIII. NORTHERN TERRITORIES CONSTABULARY	18-19
XIV. ROADS	19-21
XV. FERRIES	21-22
XVI. TRANSPORT	22
XVII. LABOUR	23-24
XVIII. PUBLIC WORKS	24
XIX. WATER SUPPLY	24-25
XX. VETERINARY	25-26
XXI. SURVEYS	26
XXII. CLIMATE	26
XXIII. EUROPEANS	26
XXIV. GOLD COAST REGIMENT	27

SCHEDULES.

A. JUDICIAL STATISTICS	.. .. .	28
B. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE	.. .. .	29
C. RAINFALL	.. .. .	30

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

THE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES FOR 1925—26.

I.—FINANCE.

1. The Revenue for the Protectorate was £9,201 3s. 11d., and the Expenditure came to £100,792 12s. 9d., as against Revenue of £8,222 12s. 5d., in 1924-25 with an Expenditure of £85,300 7s. 5d. The Revenue is gradually increasing owing to the rapid development of the country; ferry dues, motor car licences and beer licences are on the upward curve.

The ferry tolls are one of the greatest sources of Revenue, supplying nearly half.

The increased Expenditure is due to a large building programme, road development, and the necessary increase of staff for these works.

The European and African Hospitals accounted for £11,000 odd.

2. The conditions prevailing in the two Provinces are very dissimilar, and while the cowrie shell is still being used in the North, it is gradually being displaced by the nickel coinage, and will eventually cease to exist as money. In the Southern parts cowries have not been used for sometime.

3. The price in the North for cowries has ranged from 400 to 1,000 for a shilling.

4. With regard to French money the 5-franc note is valued from 9d. to 1/3d., while the 5-franc piece still fetches about 2/3d, which is far more than its worth, but this piece has always been popular, and in pre-war days fetched as much as 7/6d., though its real value was well known.

5. There was a danger at one time of the natives being victimised by the new French alloy money, which at first sight closely resembles the British alloy, in 2-franc, 1-franc and 50 centime pieces, but the Government supplied all Political Officers with specimens of the French coinage and the native is now quite familiar with them and their value, as compared with the British alloy.

6. It has been reported that while French natives are very anxious to pay in British markets with French money, they try to make British natives pay with British money in French markets.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

TRADE.

7. There is no doubt that nearly every class of trade is on the increase and that this is caused by the opening of the various motor roads, which make it possible for goods and foodstuffs to be exported to the markets of the South, where the demand is steadily on the increase, in such quick time that the traders are now beginning to realise the benefit of a quick turn over, of which they are taking full advantage.

CATTLE. (a)

8. The numbers of cattle passing over the ferries on their way to the South was 41,407 as against 23,626 last year, but this was a very bad year, and the small number was due to the closing of the cattle roads on account of cattle plague. The year before that showed 35,933 head.

SHEEP AND GOATS.

9. The numbers of Sheep and Goats showed an increase as against last year, of 7,897, the number crossing South being 53,799.

DONKEYS.

10. The Donkeys show an increase of 4,921, numbering 34,944.

11. The Kola figures are satisfactory showing an increase coming into the Protectorate of 11,780 loads, the total amounting to 83,273 loads. Shea butter has fallen in a small measure, but Dawa Dawa has increased.

Enormous numbers of fowls are now exported, many by lorry, and 179,080 fowls left the Protectorate going South during the year, besides thousands of yams. The trade in English and native cloth shows a slight decrease as compared with last year's figures, and this is probably due to the fact that merchants find a more ready sale for foodstuffs.

12. Motor traffic has more than doubled; on one road, opened for the first time during the year, 96 lorries passed North and 114 South. The numbers of motor vehicles, counting cars, lorries and trailers, crossing the ferry at Yeji North and South was 4,690, showing an increase of 1,652 on last year. Salt is normal.

AGRICULTURE. (b)

13. The crops were bad in the Southern Province owing to the rains being late, but there was no want. In the Northern Area, except for the millet crop, which was poor for the same

reason, the harvest was reported generally to be good. The people are most certainly alive to the fact that yams are a paying proposition for export to Kumasi, and they are enlarging their farms accordingly. Around Tamale this is particularly noticeable.

TEAK.

14. The Teak plantations at various stations continue to do well, and the timber is most useful for building purposes. There is a great demand in the Mandated Area for them, for canoe poits. The timber is very heavy when it has to be transported, but gradually small nurseries are being started all over the country, and these in time will do for the roofing of the Government Rest Houses and native villages.

15. The area under tobacco in the Zuarungu Division of Northern Mampusi, is reported to be largely increased.

16. Cocoa is only grown in the Mandated Area of the Krachi District, and is reported to be on the increase, about one thousand loads were exported to the Colony, and about 300 loads went to the French Mandated Area.

17. A Cotton Scheme is being inaugurated for next year, and it is hoped it will be successful. The natives for the most part are most enthusiastic, and ten tons of cotton seed have been issued for the experiment.

MARKETS. (c)

18. The food supplies in the various markets are reported to be adequate, though, more especially in Tamale and Salaga, prices have gone up owing to the demand for fowls and foodstuffs, and the resulting sales of other commodities.

19. In Tamale the market has increased enormously in size, and is now far too small to accommodate the people who attend on "big market day", which is held every sixth day. The ordinary market day now exceeds in numbers a "big market day" of a few years ago.

20. The butchers were supplied with proper saws, cleavers, and knives, and the meat looks more attractive than formerly, and steps are being taken by the Veterinary Department to ensure the proper cutting up of carcasses.

INDUSTRIES. (d)

21. There are not a great many industries at the present time, but leather work, pot making, iron work, weaving, mat making and dyeing are some of them. The manufacture of string and rope is also carried on, and there are a few people who make brass figures for sale. Hats of grass are also made in fairly large numbers for local use, their shapes are many and varied.

III.—LEGISLATION.

22. The following Ordinances came into force during the year :—

No. 2 of 1925.—The Northern Territories Administration Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925.

No. 3 of 1925.—The Northern Territories Administration Second Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925.

No. 4 of 1925.—The Northern Territories Administration Third Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925.

No. 5 of 1925.—The Importation of Live-Stock Ordinance, 1925.

No. 6 of 1925.—The Northern Territories Administration Fourth Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925.

No. 7 of 1925.—The Northern Territories Administration Fifth Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925.

No. 1 of 1926.—The Northern Territories Administration Amendment Ordinance, 1926.

No. 2 of 1926.—The Importation of Live-Stock Amendment Ordinance, 1926.

23. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

No. 6 of 1925.—Amendment under the Northern Territories Ordinance, 1902 with respect to Prisons, Northern Territories.

No. 7 of 1925.—Further amendment under Northern Territories Administration Ordinance, 1902 with respect to Prisons, Northern Territories.

IV.—EDUCATION.

24. There are Government Schools at Wa, Lawra, Gambaga, Tamale, Salaga, and a Trade School at Yendi, in the Northern Section of the Mandated Area of Togoland.

The White Fathers have now the whole of Northern Mamprusi under them for Education, and have School Buildings at Navrongo and Bolgatanga, for which they have received a grant from the Government.

25. Education is now in a state of flux, and the new regime begins next year when the European Superintendent of Education with a European and African staff, will take over the Education of the Protectorate. The School (Trade) at Yendi and the Tamale Primary School will be removed to a ridge outside Tamale, where the Veterinary School is also going. There the new schools are to be built, some of the staff being already in occupation.

26. Education in the Northern Territories up to the present time cannot be called an unqualified success, but under the new regime it is hoped that a great improvement will take place.

27. The Yendi Trade School, now in the fourth year of its existence, will, next July, turn out on the world about 30 boys, who have done four years at some trade, such as wood-working, iron or masonry work, and agriculture. Arrangements have been made to employ all these boys directly they leave school, so that they may not forget their trades or, finding no work to do, return to their ordinary life as farmers. This is the only school at present which has a European at its head.

28. There have been no inspections during the year by members of the Educational Department, but the Political Officers do their best to carry on, and some take an enormous interest in their schools.

29. In the three schools in the Northern Province, *viz* :— Wa, Lawra and Gambaga, the boarding school system prevails, and has proved to be very successful. The boys are well and adequately fed and housed, and lead a proper school life, without any village distractions, except during the holidays. This will later on obtain in the Southern Province schools, but at present they are all day-boys with the exception of those at Yendi Trade School, where the boarding system is used.

30. The number of pupils in the undermentioned schools is too great for the available teachers, and also for the accommodation in the buildings, but this is now being rectified.

SOUTHERN PROVINCE.

Tamale	133 pupils and 6 teachers.
Salaga	64 pupils and 3 teachers.
Yendi	114 pupils and 6 teachers.

NORTHERN PROVINCE.

Gambaga	79 pupils and 4 teachers.
Wa	76 pupils and 4 teachers.
Lawra	42 pupils and 2 teachers.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

PRISONS.

31. There is only one Prison in the Protectorate, where long sentence prisoners serve their terms, and that is the Tamale Central Prison; but all outstations possess a small prison or lock-up, where prisoners can be kept, who are sentenced to any term under six, months. All people receiving a sentence of six months and over serve their time in the Tamale Central Prison.

32. In Tamale Prison, boot making, laundry work, rope making and tailoring are taught, and it is hoped in the future that the activities of this prison will be greatly increased.

33. Extramural labour at all stations consists of conservancy, carrying water and general sanitary work.

34. There were two executions in Tamale during the year under review.

35. The number of prisoners at Tamale at the beginning of the year was 72 and at the end 56. The Expenditure on the Prison came to £1,818 os. 10d.

HOSPITALS.

36. At Headquarters a European Hospital was built, but is not yet opened. This will supply a long felt want.

37. A new Native Hospital has also been constructed with male and female wards. This is a great improvement on the original Native Hospital.

38. At Salaga there is also a good Native Hospital, but owing to the fact that no Medical Officer was available, it was for some-time used as a school. It is now opened again as a hospital.

39. At all stations there are bush type hospitals, where natives who need medical attention, are looked after, but there is a dearth, at present, of Medical Officers.

40. With this dearth of Medical Officers there can be little or no travelling to outlying villages by them, where they would probably find a great deal to interest them.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

41. Crime is not at all prevalent and the number of Criminal Cases which came before District Commissioners totalled 717. In the Northern Province the most prevalent crime is sheep stealing, while in the Southern there is no crime which can be said to be particularly noticeable. Crimes against Health Acts, etc., are not counted in the above numbers.

42. Considering that there are no Civil Police in the country and that most of the apprehension of Criminals is done by the Chiefs and people, the number can be said to be small.

43. The total number of offences reported during the year was, including Health Acts and other offences, 1,061; this as against 1,196 in 1924-25. Of the above offences 131 were offences against the person. Prædial Larceny 9.

Offences against Revenue and Health Acts totalled 385 and other offences 308.

Offences against property other than Prædial Larceny 223. Homicide 5.

79 persons were acquitted in the Courts during the year. 12 cases were tried by the Circuit Judge in the Chief Commissioner's Court, including one held at Yendi in Mandated Togoland.

3 Death sentences were passed of which one was commuted to a less punishment.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

44. None are available, no Register of Births and Deaths ever having been kept.

45. Various outbreaks of small pox occurred in the Southern Province, the most serious of these being at Dogonkade in July, where 112 cases were diagnosed with 26 deaths. Another outbreak took place at Mpaha, in which 8 deaths occurred. A third outbreak came in early February, but owing to the rapid isolation of infected people, the disease was checked quickly.

46. There were seven cases of anthrax reported near Salaga, the patients all belonged to one family and three died. The infection is said to have been caused by the skin of a cow killed without inspection, by the villagers. By the time the outbreak had been reported, no trace of the infected herd could be found, but no further cases were reported.

47. Guinea-worm was very bad in the Southern Province, and until natives can be prevented from infecting their drinking water, it is possible that it will continue to be troublesome; while it is possible for natives, such as Constabulary to be fairly safe while in their stations, by boiling the drinking water, it is almost impossible for them to do so when out in the bush.

48. A great deal of attention has been paid to yaws this year, with excellent results.

49. The health of the Europeans was, during the year, better than during the preceding two years, only one death occurring, of a Political Officer, which took place in the United Kingdom. There were two invalidings.

50. Among the African Officials the number of cases on the sick list was less than in 1924-25. One death occurred and one invaliding.

51. There were 337 inpatients treated in the native hospital during the year, and of these 15 died, being 1 African Official and 1 Constable of the Northern Territories Constabulary and 13 Civilians. 5,124 out-patients were treated during the year, and the Medical Authorities report that the natives now thoroughly appreciate the value of medical attention and come in freely for attendance for such diseases as yaws, guinea-worm etc.

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

52. These services have been well maintained during the year. Mails have arrived punctually, and the few interruptions to the telegraph line have been quickly remedied. The mails, on leaving the ship, are carried by train to Kumasi, thence by lorry to Tamale in two days. From Tamale all mails go out by head load to the various stations, in most cases the carriers meeting half way, and taking over the bags.

53. There are Postal Agencies at all outstations, where small supplies of stamps are in use, and at certain stations postal orders are issued. There has been an increasing demand for the latter which should be an indication of increasing prosperity.

54. There are telegraph offices at Wa, Bole, Gambaga, where the telegraph business is attended to by the Political Clerks, who receive a small remuneration for this service. At Tamale, Salaga, Yeji, regular telegraph clerks are employed.

55. At Wa the sale of stamps and postal orders amounted to £384 14s. 11d.

56. The volume of postal business is reported to be on the increase in all parts of the country.

57. The Revenue of the Tamale Post Office shows a slight decrease of £17 7s. 4½d., having earned a Revenue of £910 2s. 10d., as against £927 10s. 2½d., last year, but an increase of business at other Postal Agencies has more than levelled matters.

58. Postal Orders issued to a value of £3,323 18s. 2d., with a poundage value of £62 4s. 5d.

59. Money Orders to a value of £2,257 16s. 0d., with a commission value £17 8s. 4d.

60. 61 Cable Messages were forwarded, 54 received and 20 transmitted, while the number of telegraph and cable messages reached 16,764 during the year, of which the Official telegrams numbered 10,221 the public paying for 5,408. The number in 1924-25 was 14,246.

61. The number of interruptions on the telegraph lines was twenty-two as against eighteen in 1924-25.

MAILS.

62. 822 bags of mails and 97 packets were received. 551 bags of mails and 111 packets were forwarded. This shows a small decrease in mail bags received, normal as to mail bags forwarded, and an increase of 183 postal packets.

IX.—RELIGION.

63. The majority of natives in the Northern Territories are pagans, with a sprinkling of Mohammedans, who as a rule, are Hausa traders scattered over the country, some living in Zongos, and others, who, as in the case of Wa and Salaga, having been for generations living in those towns, from long absence from their country, have practically changed their nationality.

A great many people profess Mohammedanism, but profess it only, and do not by any means act up to its tenets.

64. In the Southern Province there are no Missions, with the exception of a very elementary one at Krachi, which is under the aegis of a Roman Catholic Catechist.

65. In the Northern Province the White Fathers have a Mission which, formerly under the Bishop of Wagadugu in La Haute Volta, has now separated from them and is quite a distinct unit. The Father Superior has not got the title of Bishop, but his staff has been increased to 8, and he is now designated Apostolic Prefect, and under this Mission all the education of the District of Northern Mamprusi has been placed.

66. There are roughly 600 converts under the Mission, and they have been in the country since 1907. This small number is accounted for by the fact that all recruits have to be personally converted, after which they have to do four years probation, before being admitted as members of the Church.

67. The Mission is now established at Bolgatanga as well as at Navrongo, and will shortly extend further out, in Northern Mamprusi only.

68. The staff consists of 8 Fathers and 1 lay brother, of these six are Canadians, one is French, one Dutch and the lay brother is an Alsatian.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

ADMINISTRATION.

69. Major H. Walker-Leigh administered the Protectorate from April 1st., until June 7th, when he was relieved by Captain L. Castellain, who continued to act until November 5th, when Major Walker-Leigh took over until the end of the year.

70. The Southern Province was administered by Mr. H. C. Branch from the beginning of the year to the end of October, when Mr. E. O. Rake took over until Mr. A. J. Cutfield came at the beginning of December. Mr. Rake again acted in January, while Mr. Cutfield was in hospital at Kumasi.

71. The Northern Province was in charge of Captain L. Castellain from the beginning of the year until the 22nd of May when he was relieved by Mr. A. J. Cutfield, who handed over to Lieutenant Colonel P. F. Whittall, D.S.O., on the 30th of November. This Officer continued in the administration of the Province until the end of the year.

72. The District Commissioner of Krachi, though in the Mandated Area of Togoland is, by virtue of his office, Travelling Commissioner in an area on the Western side of the River Volta, in Ashanti. This stretch of country is termed "all those parts on the Ashanti side owing allegiance to the Chief of Krachi" and this land was considered as being roughly a stretch of land lying on the right bank of the Volta, and reaching some thirty miles inland to the West of it.

73. During the year under review the District Commissioner, Mr. Cardinall, was able to travel this stretch of country to an extent never before attempted, and a closer delimitation can now be made.

74. This Krachi land reaches its farthest from the Volta at a village called Kwami Dio, on Road A No. 18, $31\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the westward of Krachi; to the South it touches the Obossum River, and extends about 15 miles up that River, where a large stream Konsubi enters it on its left bank.

75. The boundary thence is a line from that confluence to Kwami Dio, about 315° ; and from Kwami Dio to the confluence of the Dakar and Volta Rivers.

76. The Protectorate has been thoroughly travelled by all grades of Political Officers. The District Commissioners being frequently on trek through their Districts. All stations have been inspected by the Provincial Commissioners more or less frequently, and the Chief Commissioner has been to every station and through all Districts of the country in some cases three or four times during the year.

77. For the first time in the history of the Northern Territories, a road was opened practically ringing them, and it was by this road that His Excellency The Governor and his staff, and Her Highness Princess Marie Louise and staff, accompanied by various officials, made a tour of the country.

78. The party entered the Territories at Prang situated on the River Prue, which separates Ashanti from the Protectorate, they then proceeded North *via* Yeji, Salaga, Tamale, Walewale to Zuarungu. From Zuarungu, Navrongo was reached, and from there the fleet of cars went up to Wagadugu, the Capital of La Haute Volta, remaining one clear day and returning to Navrongo, thence to Tumu-Lawra, Wa, and Bole, finally crossing into Ashanti at Bamboi on the Black Volta.

This visit was certainly a factor in opening the eyes of the wilder natives, as the District Commissioner, Lawra writes "the only motor cars the natives had seen amounted to three, and the number of cars and lorries which visited the Lawra and Wa Districts during this tour was an eye-opener to the people, and is still a topic of conversation."

79. During this journey of many hundreds of miles, some part of which was over newly made mud roads, there certainly were a number of break-downs, and this was only to be expected, as the rains had begun and were somewhat persistent during the tour, which took place in May, which, as it happened that year, was with September the record month for rainfall; a fortnight earlier or later and no trouble would have been experienced.

80. The Chiefs were most enthusiastic in their welcome everywhere, and both Chiefs and people enjoyed the visit thoroughly.

XI.—POLITICAL.

81. Relations with the French have been most cordial and frequent visits have, on both sides, taken place.

82. The Officers of the two nations are now beginning to know each other far better than heretofore.

83. The relations between Chiefs and the Government may be said to be everywhere excellent; they are always glad to see their Commissioners when visited, and they loyally co-operate and give all the help in their power to supply the necessary labour to carry out Government Schemes of development and progress.

84. On the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to Kumasi in April, 1925, the following Chiefs were taken down to pay their respects by the Chief Commissioner and two District Commissioners:—The Na of Yendi, the Chiefs of Kombi and Savelugu from the Southern Province, and from the North the Chiefs of Wa, Girapa, Nangodi and the Na of Mamprusi.

85. At first, some of the bigger Chiefs did not like the idea of crossing the Volta, but when they heard that another Paramount Chief was going, their scruples vanished, and another superstition was buried.

86. The sights seen in Kumasi must have made a great impression on those who had never seen a large town, or anything approaching it before.

87. The Commandant of the Northern Territories Constabulary, with one Officer and a hundred rank and file, marched down 238 miles to assist the Gold Coast Regiment in the various necessary duties. Many of these men had likewise never seen Kumasi.

88. Mr. J. E. W. Flood of the Colonial Office made a round trip of the Northern Territories during the year, rejoining his party at Kumasi in early April.

89. The country generally is progressing rapidly in every way. People are asking for roads to be made, and lorries are to be seen everywhere, loaded with trade and passengers.

90. The Western Gonja District may be said to be the most apathetic, but this is easily accounted for by the fact that they were nearly harried out of existence by Samory, a state of affairs from which they have never recovered; the population is sparse, and they have only just had a trunk road through their country. This road is now bringing trade, and will surely bring population, which has been found to be the case on the opening of other motor roads.

91. The village of Tamale is steadily increasing in size; a new area was opened for building this year, and houses are springing up at a great pace. It is also noticeable that many small stores are being opened, and that traders, who formerly did not bother about Tamale, are beginning to open branches here.

92. Another thing, the type of house is changing in structure, being for the most part oblong now instead of round, as formerly, with plenty of windows, which were never used in the old days.

XII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

93. In the Southern Province seven Chiefs died during the year, the number dying in the Northern has not been reported.

94. There were small boundary disputes between Chiefs, as to territorial and fishing rights, which were settled in a satisfactory manner by the Political Officers concerned.

95. In Eastern Dagomba (Mandated Togoland) there was a small riot at Gudgoni, which resulted in the arrest and punishment of eight men.

96. There was a raid by French Konkombas on the village of Lawalugu near Kuntza last February, in which a few men were wounded. The District Commissioner visited the place and warned the people to behave ; no further trouble is anticipated, but any small dispute such as the possession of a fish or guinea fowl, will often lead to bloodshed among these primitive people.

97. Two murders took place in the division, one man was apprehended and eventually executed, and the other escaped.

98. In the Northern Province everything has been quiet and no riots have taken place.

99. The Chiefs are reported to be anxious to help Government to the full extent of their power, but they do not show any great improvement in the ruling of their people, with one or two exceptions.

100. There is a certain amount of bickering reported among the lesser Chiefs, but these small matters are easily dealt with as they arise.

101. A new Fetish was found to be running in the Tong Hills, where the forbidden Fetish is situated, and quite close to it. On enquiry being instituted, it was found to be a benevolent Fetish called Tongnab, so permission was given for this Fetish to be practised.

102. Since the advent of motor cars, Political Officers find that they can see a great deal more of their Chiefs and people than formerly, and Chiefs are frequently taken round in the Commissioner's car for various reasons. When visits have to be made to places where no motor roads exist, it is usual to send ponies to the nearest point on the motor road, motor to that point, and continue on horseback with carriers.

103. Grass roofed houses are gradually taking the place of the flat roofed fortlike edifices, which were always used in certain Northern Districts. This is a sign of progress, and also that the fear of attack is passing away from the younger generation.

104. In the last tour of the writer, when the farthest places in the north west were visited, he was surprised at the number of people meeting him, who were dressed in European clothes, a bad habit possibly, but it showed that the young men had either taken to travelling more, or, that the stores are spreading to the North. He was also impressed with the extraordinary cleanliness of all Rest Houses and with the excellence of the roads, which are under the Political in that part of the country, and the orderliness of the people, who, though there in thousands, were perfectly quiet without the presence of a single constable or soldier.

XIII.—NORTHERN TERRITORIES CONSTABULARY.

105 This Force consists of one Commandant, one Adjutant who is Second in Command, and two other Officers who are called Assistant Commandants.

106. They are distributed as circumstances may require. At Tamale at present 4 officers and 204 other ranks are stationed. At all outstations there are from 21 to 28 men.

107. The total strength of the Force at present is 4 Officers, 6 Clerks, and 459 Rank and File.

108. Of the above-mentioned strength, 31 Non-Commissioned Officers and men are employed as Cattle Patrols under the Principal Veterinary Officer, and they render valuable service in supervising cattle roads, reporting disease, and apprehending cattle traders who try to enter the Protectorate by other than prescribed routes.

109. One Assistant Commandant resigned during the year, and another Officer was attached pending the decision of the Secretary of State as to his transfer from the Political Service.

110. Sixty-nine men were removed from the Force for various reasons, including 20 time expired, 9 medically unfit, 4 deaths, 11 desertions, 4 misconduct and 21 (recruits), for inefficiency.

111. There is no difficulty in getting the right stamp of recruit, and many soldiers of the Gold Coast Regiment join, after their military service.

The enlistments during the year amounted to 68.

112. Detachments are relieved as frequently as possible and go through a course of intensive training, as they are liable to get slack if at outstations too long, under Political Officers who have plenty of other work to occupy their time.

113. The mounted strength of the Force was 75 on April 1st, 1925, and is now 86.

114. There are 8 Vickers Guns, of which 4 are at Frontier Stations and 4 at Headquarters.

115. Machine Gun training has been carried out according to the Manual for Machine Gun training.

116. The Force did its Annual Course of Musketry at Tamale and at outstations where ranges were available, generally conducted by Officers of the Force.

117. The rifles are a war time production and some are not very accurate, but steps are being taken to replace these gradually.

118. The horses of the Force are in good fettle, and the casualties during the year amounted to 10, including 7 cast and 3 deaths.

119. There are bungalows for the Commandant and two other Officers, and in the next year's building programme another house will be erected.

120. The discipline of the Force is reported as good.

121. The Force has been inspected during the year by the Chief Commissioner, and all detachments by the Commandant, and other Officers.

122. The following are the tribes from which the Northern Territories Constabulary is recruited : Basari, Busanga, Dagomba, Fra Fra, Fulani, Grunshi, Kanjaga, Konkomba, Kusasi, Lobi, Mamprusi, Mawba, Moshi, Wongara, Yanga, Zabarima.

XIV.—ROADS.

123. The roads in the Protectorate are divided in two classes, those under the Public Works Department and those under the Political Officers.

124. The mileage of the former class is estimated at 358 miles, but owing to want of staff, the Political have had to take over all that part of the Public Works road north of the Nasia River, which includes the road Nasia to Gambaga about 40 miles, Nasia to Zuarungu, about 50 miles.

125. The total mileage in the Northern Territories, motorable in the dry weather, comes to 1,785 miles, of which about 250 miles are Public Works Department, the balance being supervised and made by the Political Department.

126. Practically every part of the country can be reached by motor car, and certainly all stations, during the dry weather, but during the rainy season the Northern Province is cut off from the Southern, owing to the rivers rising and washing away the drifts, which up to date have had to be made each year, entailing much labour.

127. Money is provided in next year's estimates to try and remedy this, by building permanent drifts which will remain in position, and be practicable, directly the rivers go down. Also arrangements are to be made gradually to make pontoons on the Nabogo, Gushie, Nasia and Volta Rivers, which will enable cars to travel most of the year, but before that can happen, a great deal of heavy banking will have to be done on Road N.T. No. 3, Tamale to Walewale.

128. The roads are gradually becoming consolidated by continual gravelling, but as in many localities there is no core to the road but mud, and in these localities gravel has to be hauled long distances, the labour of making a road dependable in the rainy season is stupendous, with the material at our disposal, and it takes a very long time.

In the early rains it is quite possible for lorries to be bogged, after only a few hours of heavy rain.

129. The Great North Road N.T. 1 from Prang to Tamale was kept open during the whole of last rainy season, to light lorries, with the exception of four days, when a bridge near Tamale was carried away and had to be replaced. This was a record for this road, and it is hoped that during the coming rains, the road will never be closed.

130. Heavy lorry traffic is forbidden during September and October owing to the great damage they do to the road.

131. In the Southern Province an entirely new road was opened running from Tamale to Karaga, the town of a very important Chief. The mileage is 49.

132. Another shorter road was opened from Tamale to Kumbungu 16 miles. This road is now continually used by lorries, especially on Tamale and Kumbungu market days.

133. In May the causeways in the North are usually covered, but on the Dakar it was possible to cross last year up to July 10th, and traffic was then stopped until January 18th.

134. Much road making has been done in Eastern Dagomba (Mandated Area), and a great deal of country opened up in consequence.

135. No new roads are to be made at the present, with the exception of a road from Tamale to Bole, but this has not yet been properly surveyed.

136. When the Gold Coast Regiment came up for their annual training camp, a motor track of 12 miles was made for them from Banda Nkwanta to Bwe to save head carriage. This was a great success.

137. On the Public Works Department road N.T. No. 1, on the Section Prang to Yeji all temporary bridges have been replaced by concrete bridges.

138. On the Yeji Tamale Section, work has been confined to raising the banks on the Makongo Swamp, and the construction of new banks on the low lying Sections of the road between Palbe and Yamalaga.

139. Only one permanent bridge has been made on the Yeji Tamale Section.

140. The Lawra-Tumu District has the greatest mileage of motorable roads, which is 370.

141. The Northern Province roads are excellent, and a good deal of new road has been opened to motor traffic during the year.

XV.—FERRIES.

142. During the year the Government Ferry at Yeji was leased to Messrs. Swanzys, Limited, who took over on January 15th.

143. They have now installed a large steel pontoon 60 feet by 20 feet.

It is current propelled, being anchored up stream, but during the dry weather as no current exists, it has to be propelled by a chain winch. One man does this work, and the passage can be made in 16 minutes.

It is a great improvement on the old pontoon, and it can carry six loaded lorries and trailers at one time. It is also safe and the embarking and disembarking of cars and lorries is not now the nightmare it used to be to the owners.

During the period Messrs. Swanzys ran the Ferry, that is from January 15th to March 31st, the revenue amounted to £1,192 1s. 6d.

144. The firm pays the Government £600 per annum, out of which Government give the Chief of Yeji £220 a year.

145. The Buipe Ferry is also run by the Government, the Chief of that village receiving £120 per Annum and the headman of Morno £20.

146. Bamboi Ferry, situated on the Black Volta between Ashanti and the Northern Territories, is also a Government concern.

All these ferries are doing well and a great help to the meagre revenue of the Protectorate.

147. The Ferry at Krachi was leased to the Chief of that town.

148. The revenue earned by all the Government Ferries amounted to £5,536 10s. 9d.

XVI.—TRANSPORT.

149. Transport is increasing in efficiency and in cheapness, as competition of private firms becomes more acute.

It is not now necessary, in Tamale, to make any contracts or worry in any way as to transport at any time, or to any part of the country, there are always plenty of lorries ready to take on any available work.

150. One private individual here owns a Peugeot car, a ford lorry and six Reo lorries. He is given most of the Government transport to do, as he only charges one way, whereas it was usual to charge for the return of empty lorries. The Government transport always do.

151. Commissioners can now visit various places, and the tours, which usually occupied weeks, are now only a matter of days. A tour taking ten days with carriers, can now be done easily in a day. This leaves Political Officers more time to attend to their office work, besides reducing enormously the burden of head carriage, on the community.

XVII.—LABOUR.

152. It may be said that this is very bad country from a labour point of view, for various reasons *viz* :—A man may have started his farm and wishes to benefit by the harvest. He may have, according to native custom in some parts, to do so many days work on his prospective father-in-law's farm each year. He is generally a peasant proprietor and has no desire for making money, as he has all he wants without it. He cannot get the food he is accustomed to, down country, and he gets ill in consequence. He has a different type of house and he gets done by the natives in the South, at any rate for some time. If he does go and stay away for a year he may come back and find his farm gone, his women folk and cattle likewise.

153. In spite of the above remarks, many young men do go down for work, as the figures below show, but none of these are organised, and they only remain for such a time, and go down at such a season, generally the non-farming season, as suits them.

154. Numbers of men going South for work over various terries.

			1925-26.	1924-25.
Yeji	..	..	8,917	9,659
Bamboi	..	..	25,421	20,135
Buipe	..	..	3,802	2,979
Krachi	..	..	564	741
			<hr/> 38,704	<hr/> 33,514

Of these over 6,148 were British, the remainder from French Country.

IMMIGRATION.

155. There are a lot of immigrants from French Country in the Mandated Area of Kusasi, and a certain amount come over and settle in the Eastern Dagomba Area, but very few in the Protectorate proper.

INDENTURED LABOUR.

156. There is very little of this; since the Mines gave up recruiting here, a few men are supplied yearly to work on the Sisal Plantation at Accra. They are well paid and like the work, but even then volunteers are very hard to get. About 100 of this class of labour went down during the year.

LOCAL LABOUR.

157. According to Ordinance, people are called up to do their quota of road labour, which amounts to 6 days per quarter. This is done cheerfully, and the people quite realise the importance of good roads, even from a selfish point of view as, where motors can pass, carriers are not required. Those in Tamale came to about 400 per month, they now do not amount to 20, and only for the mails.

XVIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

158. In the Northern Province where there are no Public Works Department Officials, all buildings and repairing work devolves on the Political Officers.

During the year under review a good deal of work under this head has been done, including a new house for the Commissioner of the Province, a new Prison and Guard Room at Navrongo, and a new Court and Office for the Commissioner, new Stables for the Constabulary and an Office, also a native hospital were built at Zuarungu, a new Rest House at Gambaga, a Court and Rest House, also a new bungalow at Bawku.

New Northern Territories Constabulary Lines and Stables at Lawra, and the District Commissioner's house which was burnt, was repaired.

159. The Southern Province has the benefit of the services of the Public Works Department, and among the buildings constructed during the year were, a practically new Residency, new native hospital and stores. European hospital (not completed). Provincial Commissioner's Office. Bungalow for the Superintendent of Education, Northern Territories. Bungalows for the Principal Veterinary Officer and an Assistant (not completed). Veterinary Kraals and stables, sheds, pens, and lines removed to Nahani, some 3 miles from Tamale. Incinerators and latrines in Tamale town.

160. At Salaga, Prison, Guard Room and Treasury Vault, District Commissioner's Office and Court have all been built. An old house rebuilt and renovated for the Medical Officer, and all other buildings kept in repair at outstations.

XIX.—WATER SUPPLY.

161. This is all derived from wells. Each year more wells are sunk, but these are not deep enough to be really serviceable. The water question is a difficult one, and will have to be taken up seriously in the near future, if an adequate supply is to be maintained at Headquarters for an increasing population.

162. The question of improving water supply on the various trade routes is one that is also worthy of attention later.

XX.—VETERINARY.

163. Cattle plague has been in existence nearly all the year in the Kusasi District, which is situated in the North East Veterinary Division, and in which there are two important Quarantine Stations namely Pusiga and Mogonawri.

164. The mortality has never exceeded 3%, and the North Western and Southern Divisions have been free of the disease during the year.

165. Very little field work has been done owing to shortage of staff, only one Officer being available, and he, besides fighting cattle plague, has castrated nearly a thousand weed bulls, and bull calves, which were unlikely to make good stud animals.

166. A new Quarantine Station was built and opened at Pinda, 8 miles north-west of Navrongo, in order to reopen the Wagadugu-Kintampo live-stock route.

167. A new road has been made to this Quarantine from Navrongo, and the French are making one off the main road to it, on their side.

168. Full preparation has been made for the collection of the forthcoming live-stock tax, which will begin on April 1st, additional staff have been posted at the various Quarantine Stations, and offices and stores have been built for the Veterinary Assistants in charge.

169. The Tamale live-stock farm has been removed entirely from the Tamale town area because its propinquity most certainly brought flies. It has now been rebuilt one and a half miles to the West.

170. Five half bred bulls, bred from the British bulls have been issued to Chiefs, and twenty-two pigs.

171. There are eight bullock carts working in Tamale, three of these being employed on conservancy work. This form of transport is used at Yendi, Lawra, Wa, and Salaga.

172. Donkey pack transport is employed at Tamale and Yendi for water carrying, and in the Northern Province for road work.

173. There are three vacancies at present in the Veterinary School.

174. Three students passed their final examination last December, and one Veterinary Assistant passed the examination qualifying him for promotion to the first Division, after a year's special course of study.

175. There are now three pupils in the first year, and one in the second.

176. The Principal Veterinary Officer has been on leave since November, and Captain J. L. Stewart, M.C., has been acting for him, up to the end of the year.

XXI.—SURVEYS.

177. Various Survey Parties have been operating in the country during the year.

178. The Railway Survey completed a preliminary survey on the proposed Northern Railway as far as Tamale.

179. The Geological Survey have made a searching trek up the Eastern side of the Protectorate, and some of the party have also penetrated some distance in the Westerly direction.

180. A survey of Tamale town for the future, was made during the year, and a scheme of town planning drawn up.

181. A Wireless Framework Section has been fixing points in the Northern Province.

XXII.—CLIMATE.

182. Reports about the rainfall are conflicting, while in the Northern Area, the rainfall is reported as being the heaviest for eight years by 16 inches, all agree that the rains continued nearly a month later than usual.

183. The whole country suffered from great heat during February and March, and even natives were heard to complain of its unusual severity.

XXIII.—EUROPEANS.

184. The European population is steadily growing, with the exception of the White Fathers in the North and one contractor in the South, all are Officials.

185. 152 Europeans arrived in and passed through Headquarters during the year.

XXIV.—THE GOLD COAST REGIMENT.

186. The Detachment of the Gold Coast Regiment stationed at Tamale marched through the South West part of the Protectorate to their camp of exercise on the Black Volta, they returned by march route the same way. All arrangements for food and carriers were made by the Political Officers of the Protectorate, but during the actual manœuvres, Ashanti became responsible for their food.

SCHEDULES.

- A. Judicial Statistics.
- B. Revenue and Expenditure.
- C. Rainfall.

H. W. LEIGH,
*Chief Commissioner,
of the Northern Territories*

Tamale,

5th June, 1926.

SCHEDULE A.

TABULATED ANNUAL RETURN OF CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925-26.

I.—OFFENCES.

TABLE SHEWING THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES REPORTED TO THE POLICE OR THE
MAGISTRATE DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1926.

Province.	Total number of Offences reported.	Offences against the person.	Slave Dealing.	Praedial Larceny	Offences against the property other than Praedial Larceny.	Other Offences.	Health Acts.	Homicide.
Northern Province ..	504	78	—	3	153	225	41	4
Southern Province ..	557	53	—	6	70	83	344	1
Totals ..	1,061	131	—	9	223	308	385	5

SCHEDULE B.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

				£	s.	d.
1. Revenue—1925-26	..	..	..	9,201	3	11
do. 1924-25	..	..	..	8,222	12	5
Increase				£978	11	6

				£	s.	d.
2. Expenditure—1925-26	..	..	..	100,792	12	9
do. 1924-25	..	..	..	85,300	7	5
				£15,492	5	4

3. The Revenue is largely derived from Ferry Tolls. There has been a slight increase in Revenue from this source viz :—

				£	s.	d.
Ferry Tolls 1925-26	..	..	..	5,584	10	9
do. do. 1924-25	..	..	..	5,560	7	5
Increase				£24	3	4

4. The following are some of the more interesting items of Expenditure :—

Public Works Extraordinary.

				£	s.	d.
Tamale European Hospital	..	..	..	6,626	5	11
Tamale Native Hospital	..	..	..	4,373	16	11
No. 1 part Yeji-Tamale Road	..	..	..	1,477	13	9
No. 3 part Tamale-Yendi Road	..	..	..	1,517	10	3
N.T. Building Programme	..	..	..	9,450	5	11

Public Works Annually Recurrent.

				£	s.	d.
Yeji-Tamale Road Maintenance	..	..	..	3,320	7	5
Maintenance of Roads and Bridges	..	..	..	3,813	19	7
Maintenance of existing buildings	..	..	..	1,703	13	10

SCHEDULE C.

RETURN OF RAINFALL, 1925-26.

April	..	..	..	2.12
May ..	..	..	..	3.99
June	..	..	..	5.94
July ..	..	..	..	2.74
August	..	..	..	5.71
September ..	..	..	..	13.28
October	..	..	..	7.57
November	..	..	..	2.65
December	..	..	..	Nil
January	..	..	..	Nil.
February	..	..	..	Nil.
March	..	..	..	1.75

45.75 inches.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1925, No. 1334 .. 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1303 .. 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1331 .. 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 .. 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 .. 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 .. 2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1924-25, No. 1284 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 19) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 13) 2s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-1925 (Colonial No. 24) 9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

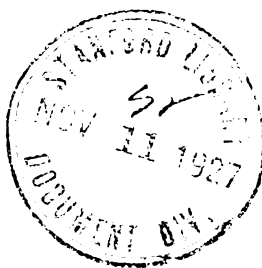
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1329.

SEYCHELLES.

Report for 1925.

For Reports for 1923 and 1924 see Nos. 1236 and 1272 (Price 6d. and 3d. respectively.)



LONDON :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses :

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh ;

York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast ;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 3d. Net.

No. 1329.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1925.*

Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of South latitude 4° and 5° ; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the Dependencies of Seychelles is $156\frac{1}{4}$. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 92.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands within a radius of 60 miles from Mahé are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); St. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also Dependencies of Seychelles:—The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. François Island, St. Pierre Island, Providence, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coëtivy, the Farquhar Islands and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The Islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the Islands in the name

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846 [Cd. 7622-37]

of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV, from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's Ship "Orpheus."

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a Dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897 the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was erected into a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Climate.

Although almost on the Equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur.

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F., but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus, during the whole year, the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but, though the difference in temperature is only slight, living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches, although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year. The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

Population.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1925, was estimated at 26,185, an increase of 1,662 since the census of 1921.

There were 201 marriages, or 23 more than in 1924.

The births in 1925 numbered 733, which corresponds to a rate of 27·99 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 392, or 14·96 per thousand.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs.770,761, an increase as compared with 1924 of Rs. 15,003. Customs revenue produced Rs.390,082, compared with Rs.331,468 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs.657,014.

The year was a good one as regards trade. The imports and exports show an increase of Rs.160,330 and Rs.467,921 respectively when compared with 1924.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last four years.

<i>Year.</i>				<i>Revenue. Rs.</i>	<i>Expenditure. Rs.</i>
1922	...	...	...	644,006	536,482
1923	...	...	...	683,979	597,940
1924	...	...	...	755,758	659,452
1925	...	...	...	770,761	657,014

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1925, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.541,201.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

On account of General Revenue ...	Rs.143,699
On account of Savings Bank ...	Rs.65,661

PUBLIC DEBT.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road-making was £4,553 12s. 11d. There is also a balance of Rs.35,000 still owing to Mauritius out of the sum of Rs.50,000 borrowed in 1920 for the purpose of building an auxiliary ketch. Provision has been made in the 1926 Estimates for the repayment of Rs.10,000 of this balance.

SAVINGS BANK.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1925, was Rs.180,234, an increase of Rs.36,542 as compared with 1924.

Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs.4,297,800, as compared with Rs.3,675,390 in 1924.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs.1,796,110, compared with Rs.1,635,780 in 1924. The imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of Rs. 163,495; the imports from India show also an increase of Rs.36,763. On the other hand, the imports from French possessions showed a decrease of Rs.71,164 as compared with 1924.

EXPORTS.

The total exports were valued at Rs.2,507,531, compared with Rs.2,039,610 in 1924. The exports to the United Kingdom showed an increase of Rs.317,389.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

	<i>Rs.</i>
United Kingdom	1,351,650
British Possessions	562,804
France and French Colonies	577,183

AGRICULTURE.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 4,873 tons, as compared with 3,184 tons in 1924. Only about 61,000 coconuts were exported during the year under review, as compared with 178,000 the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs.40 to Rs. 48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.350 per ton.

Essential Oils.—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically, and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic, and lemon grass oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 45,999 litres valued at Rs.375,852.

The export in 1924 amounted to 34,612 litres.

Vanilla.—2,466 kilos valued at Rs.42,509 were exported in 1925, as against 1,429 kilos valued at Rs.57,744 in 1924.

Rubber.—The total export of rubber during the year amounted to 4,936 kilos, as compared with 728 kilos in 1924.

FISHERIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is engaging the attention of the Government.

Turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying islands by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following **exports** were made during the year :—

		<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Value. Rs.</i>
Tortoise shell	... ..	1,211½	61,401
Calipee	... ..	5,640	12,964
Shark fins	... ..	647	500
Trepangs	... ..	4,706	4,366

The export of guano during the year amounted to 13,889 tons, the declared value being Rs.361,500.

Legislation.

Thirteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year.

The principal Ordinances were :—

No. 1. "An Ordinance to amend the Outlying Islands Labour Ordinance, 1909, and to empower the Governor in Executive Council to make Regulations fixing the scale of rations to be issued to servants on the Outlying Islands."

No. 2. "An Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1923."

No. 4. "An Ordinance to amend the Patents Ordinance 1901."

No. 8. "An Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1923."

No. 10. "An Ordinance to amend the Loan to Planters Ordinance, 1904, (No. 4 of 1904)."

No. 11. "An Ordinance to amend the Civil Status Ordinance, 1893."

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are 21 Grant-in-Aid schools at which free elementary education is given. Seventeen of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 1,764 children, with an average attendance of 1,289; the remaining 4 schools are Church of England, attended by 318 pupils, with an average attendance of 224·8.

The average attendance has increased from 68·8 per cent. to 73 per cent. in the Roman Catholic schools, and decreased from 73·6 per cent. to 70·4 per cent. in the Church of England schools.

Apart from the schools examined, there are 4 Roman Catholic primary schools which are not yet recognised as Grant-in-Aid schools; one at Port Glaud with 37 pupils; one at Anse Etoile with 75 pupils; one at Plaisance (formerly the Government Ashanti schools) with 42 pupils; and one at Anse Boudin, Praslin, with 50 pupils.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp school were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 218 and 158 pupils respectively; fees are charged. At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations; 31 candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local Examination, of whom 14 obtained a Preliminary, 3 a Junior and 3 a School Certificate. Twenty-five candidates were also offered for the higher education of girls: there was one failure.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions and local scholarships. The total amount spent on Education was Rs.28,108, of which Rs.19,427 was a grant-in-aid to primary schools.

Communications.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 15 miles, however, are at present suitable for motor traffic; schemes for regrading roads are under consideration, which will largely increase the mileage.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.33,093, and the expenditure to Rs.16,002. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 42 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony, but the possibility of communication by wireless telephony between Mahé and the nearer islands is being investigated.

J. BYRNE,
Brigadier-General,
Governor.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 .. 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308. 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1306 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1924, No. 1272 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 .. 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322. 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1306 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311. 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 .. 2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1924-25, No. 1284 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15) 2s.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1330.

BAHAMAS.



REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1241 and for Report for 1925 see No. 1285
(price 6d. each).)



LONDON.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Admiral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh
York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff :
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast :
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 9d. Net.

No. 1330.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1926.*

I.—Geographical and Historical Note.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of coral islands, "cays" and rocks, lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great coral banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. The Little Bahama Bank, which is the more northerly of the two, begins at the Matanilla Reef opposite the east coast of Florida and distant about 70 miles from Palm Beach, one of the principal watering places of that State. This Bank contains only two large islands, Grand Bahama and Abaco, but there is a large number of small cays fringing the northern shores of these two islands.

3. To the south of the Little Bahama Bank and separated from it by the North-west and North-east Providence Channels is the Great Bahama Bank, on which most of the islands of the Bahamas lie. To the westward is a line of cays, of which the principal is Bimini, which extends along the eastern extremity of the Gulf Stream. Bimini is only fifty miles from Miami, in Florida. South-east of Bimini is Andros, which, although generally spoken of as one island, is in reality a small archipelago in itself, about 95 miles long with an extreme breadth of 38 miles. Andros is intersected at several points by shallow waterways which permit of navigation through the island, from shore to shore, by vessels of small draught. East of Andros is New Providence which, although by no means the largest, is easily the most important of the islands, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and fully a quarter of the total population of the Colony. East again of New Providence lies Eleuthera, with Harbour Island close to its northern shores; on Harbour Island the first settlement was made by the Adventurers, who laid the foundations of the present Colony. The chain is continued south-east of Eleuthera by Cat Island, San Salvador (or Watlings), the first landfall of Columbus in the New World, Exuma, Long Island, Rum Cay, the Fortune Island group (which includes Crooked Island, Acklin's Island and Long Cay), Mayaguana and Inagua.

4. Eastwards of Inagua lie the Turks and Caicos Islands which, although geographically part of the Bahamas, were separated from them politically in 1848 and now form a Dependency of Jamaica.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 849 [C', 7622-10].

5. In addition to the islands mentioned there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles or one half the size of Wales. It is said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow and low lying. The ground is very rocky but in among the honeycomb rock there are pockets of rich and fertile earth. Owing to the rocky nature of the soil the plough is never used, and a cultivated "field" in the Bahama Islands would astonish a farmer from any other part of the world. The surface rock is exceedingly hard but the rock beneath is soft and is easily sawn into blocks, making an excellent building stone.

6. There are no mountains and very few hills, but in spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture which is not easily forgotten. It is probable that the islands were all thickly wooded at a comparatively recent date, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros. A timber company is at present working the pine forest on Abaco.

7. The following table will show the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group :—

<i>Island or Group.</i>	<i>Area in square miles.</i>	<i>Population at last census (1921).</i>
Abaco	776	3,993
Andros	1,600	6,976
Berry Islands	14	328
Bimini	8	610
Eleuthera and Harbour Island	166	7,547
Exuma and cays	100	3,730
Grand Bahama... ..	430	1,695
Inagua	560	937
Long Island	130	4,659
Fortune Island group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands)	204	3,458
Mayaguana	96	432
New Providence	58	12,975
Ragged Island group	5	366
Rum Cay... ..	29	338
Cat Island	160	4,273
San Salvador or Watlings	60	686
	<hr/> 4,396	<hr/> 53,003

8. The total population is approximately 53,000, mostly the descendants of African slaves. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, this being due in the first place to the better climate and in the second place to the fact that after the War of American Independence a number of soldiers were settled in the Bahamas.

9. When the Bahamas were first discovered in 1492 they were inhabited by a peaceful race of Indians who were soon removed to Hayti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the original inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonise the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. In 1647 a Company of Eleutherian Adventurers was formed in London for the purpose of colonising the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third Grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in six Lords Proprietors.

10. The Lords Proprietors received very complete powers for the government of the Islands. They were given the right to appoint Governors and other officials, to enact laws with the advice, assent and approbation of the freemen, to erect forts and raise troops, to make war, and even to confer titles of honour. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was sent to the Bahamas by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers who at this time were the real rulers of the settlement. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba where he was "roasted on a spit." In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau once again and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited and returned to England.

11. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the head-quarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and to drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau

in 1718 and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their former occupation. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor. Some ammunition and a quantity of stores were taken but the place was evacuated in a few days. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change, and the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Bahamas which, between the years 1861 and 1865, were used as a depot for the vessels which were running the "blockade" imposed against the Confederate States. During the Great War, in spite of the distance of the Bahamas from the scene of the conflict, the inhabitants suffered some hardship from the difficulty of obtaining food supplies. The Colony sent a contingent to the British West Indies Regiment and contributed liberally to the Red Cross and other funds.

12. In 1919 there was a sudden increase in the revenue of the Colony, due to large imports of spirits, which reached a record in 1922 and has since gradually declined.

13. The Bahamas has shared in the depreciation of land values experienced in Florida during the past year, by the collapse of the real estate "boom," and although prices of property have not returned to normal, there is very little activity in real estate at present. No doubt the tourists will still continue to acquire sites for their winter homes in the Bahamas, but it seems improbable that there will be any return to the abnormal activities previously experienced in the sale of real estate.

14. Owing to its many natural facilities for the tourist traffic, Nassau, each year, attracts an ever increasing number of winter visitors during the Season, which is from the end of December to the beginning of April. The Bahamas can boast of an unsurpassed winter climate, and the tourists who visit the Colony have swimming, fishing, yachting, sight-seeing, tennis, golf, and dancing to choose from in the many forms of amusement.

15. Consequent on the growing demand for greater hotel accommodation, the Hotel Fort Montagu has just been completed by a local company, with the assistance of a loan of £220,000 from the Government, and was opened to visitors on the 21st December, 1926.

II.—Constitution and Government.

16. The present constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England, the Governor representing the Sovereign, the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

17. "The Eleutherian Adventurers," who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them the idea of representative Government which already existed in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council and an elected Senate. The charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729 when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, who has a negative voice in legislation. He is assisted by an Executive Council not exceeding nine members; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and Receiver-General are members *ex officio*, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the Legislature. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

18. The Legislative Council consists of nine members nominated by the Crown. It has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) and to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly (other than money bills). It may throw out altogether any bills, even those dealing with money. In 1924 the Legislative Council rejected a Bill for the reduction of the duty on spirits which had passed the House of Assembly by a narrow majority.

19. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members, elected for 15 districts, the qualification for members being possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is the ownership of land of the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8s. 0d. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The life of the House is seven years unless previously dissolved by the Governor.

20. At the General Election which took place in May and June, 1925, 18 and of the 29 members were returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors who voted at the contested elections :—

Constituency.	No. of seats.	No. of unsuccessful candidates.	No. of votes cast for elected candidates.	No. of votes cast for unsuccessful candidates.	Population at 1921 Census.
New Providence ..	2	—	195	—	3,500
(South) (a) ..	—	—	175	—	(approx.)
	—	1	—	119	—
New Providence ..	2	—	252	—	2,000
(East) (a) ..	—	—	241	184	(approx.)
	—	2	—	142	—
Harbour Island (b) ..	3	—	339	—	—
..	—	—	337	—	—
(electoral district.) ..	—	—	333	—	—
	—	1	—	183	2,773
Long Island (a) ..	2	—	305	—	—
..	—	—	257	—	5,025
(with Ragged Island) ..	—	1	—	115	—
Crooked Island ..	1	—	93	—	—
(with Long Cay & Acklin's) ..	—	—	—	—	3,458
	—	1	—	78	—
Inagua ..	1	—	31	—	937
	—	1	—	29	—

(a) Each elector had two votes.

(b) Each elector had three votes.

21. The Crown owns a considerable amount of land in the various islands and the receipts from the sale and leases of these Crown lands are placed to the credit of a special fund which is administered by the Governor under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The receipts amounted to £9,722 in 1925, and to over £14,203 in 1926.

22. Apart from these Crown funds, the House of Assembly has complete control over the finances of the Colony, subject to the veto of the Legislative Council, and the Governor. This control is jealously exercised, and, by voting sums to a number of Boards, composed largely of members of the Legislature, the House exercises a certain measure of executive power.

III.—General Observations.

23. The Colony was represented at the West Indian Conference which was held in London in May, 1926, and the Legislature is being invited to pass the necessary legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Conference, so far as the Bahamas is concerned.

24. The lack of remunerative industries in the Out Islands has in the past caused a steady flow of emigration to Florida, and many of the islands were being gradually depopulated. The new United States immigration law, which came into force during 1924, put an abrupt stop to this movement of the population and were it not for the large amount of money placed in circulation by real estate developers and builders there is little doubt that considerable hardship would have been caused. Owing to the uncompromising nature of the soil and the difficulty of transporting their crops to Nassau there is very little money to be made by agriculturists in the Out Islands, which must continue to be depopulated until better transportation facilities are provided.

25. The general health of the community during the past year has been good. No serious epidemic has occurred other than the annual summer outbreak of typhoid, which is practically endemic; fortunately it is a very mild type (one of the paratyphoid group) with an extremely low mortality-rate. Malaria is not common, the *Anopheles* mosquito being rarely found in Nassau, though they are fairly abundant elsewhere. Pellagra has shown a greater incidence than in previous years; the reason for this is obscure.

26. A serious outbreak of smallpox was reported in Florida in January, 1926, and continued in epidemic form for several months, but owing to the prompt action taken by the health authorities at Nassau in having an embargo imposed against Florida, and urging immediate general vaccination, the Bahamas escaped a like fate. Only five cases occurred in the Colony, which were the outcome of the subjects having come into contact with persons and clothing arriving from Florida before the commencement of the embargo. These cases were immediately isolated, with the result that there was no further spread of the disease.

27. There is, at present, no municipal system of sewerage or water supply in Nassau, each better-class house possessing its own septic tanks and well or rain-water tank. There are, however, good prospects of a pipe-borne water supply and sewage system being inaugurated shortly, which will revolutionise the sanitation of Nassau. Legislation has been passed authorising the installation of a water supply system; a water authority has been appointed, and arrangements are being made to engage the services of a competent engineer from the United Kingdom to superintend the carrying out of the scheme. The water supply is a necessary preliminary to the sewage system.

HURRICANES.

28. The last hurricane experienced by the Bahamas was in 1919, but it was not regarded as a very serious one, and the popular conviction was growing that the Colony was outside the hurricane zone. The year 1926 has dispelled this idea, for it was the most disastrous year within living memory, and, it might almost be said, in the history of the Colony, there having occurred one hurricane on the 26th July, another on the 17th September, and a third on the 20th October. Practically every island in the Group felt the effects of one of the hurricanes, and the majority had the misfortune to be visited by the three.

29. As a result of these hurricanes, many lives were lost, thousands of buildings damaged or destroyed, crops absolutely ruined and many vessels wrecked. New Providence was cut off from the outside world and from the Out Islands of the Colony for several hours after each hurricane, owing to the Wireless Station having been put out of commission.

30. In some places practically whole settlements were washed away by the sea, and at one settlement the tide rose fifteen feet or more above the normal level. In another settlement only three out of the twenty-six dwellings withstood the storm, the remainder being either destroyed or seriously damaged. In New Providence, on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony, is situated, the damage to property was not so great as at the Out Islands, the reason for this being that a large proportion of the houses are built of stone and are better able to withstand hurricanes than those at most of the Out Islands, where the buildings occupied by the peasants are less substantial. Then, too, as the Bahamas has escaped a severe hurricane for so long, the people have become less careful in building their houses and have omitted to pin their buildings properly to the ground and to take other precautionary measures to render them proof against hurricanes.

31. In consequence of these three hurricanes thousands of people were left homeless and without food, which necessitated the Government providing relief in the way of provisions, building materials and employment on public works.

32. Immediately the July storm abated in New Providence, and before reports could be received from the Out Islands, the Government sent out relief boats with food to those settlements which it was thought—judging from the course the storm took—had suffered most, and the Commissioners of the various Districts were granted money for expenditure on works of public utility, in order to provide the needy with employment. When the second hurricane followed so closely on the heels of the first, the Government found it necessary to consider more adequate and effective means of rendering assistance to the Out Islands, and drew up a definite programme. To prevent persons from flocking into Nassau in search of work and help, and thus rendering relief by the Government more difficult, notices were posted up

in the Out Islands advising the people to remain at home, where the Government would assist them as promptly as possible, and warned them that if they came to Nassau they would not be helped by the Government.

33. The Commissioner of each District was authorised to issue free rations to, and to rebuild the homes of, widows and those persons who were unable to work, and to afford employment on public works to all those who were capable and desirous of working. Lime kilns were burnt at the expense of the Government, and the lime given to those who required it for repairing or rebuilding their houses. Lumber for small standardised houses was ordered from the lumber mills of the Bahamas Cuban Company at Norman's Castle, Abaco, and distributed among the settlements. Corn seed was issued free, and farmers were assisted in preparing their fields for sowing fresh crops. The Government also arranged for the building of boats in certain Districts in order to replace those that had been lost in the hurricanes and to afford employment.

34. The Legislature, which was called together just after the first hurricane, authorised the expenditure of a sum of £50,000 on hurricane relief, and, under the authority of this Act, loans were made to persons to enable them to repair or rebuild their houses, and by special authority of the Legislature loans were similarly made to assist shipping. The interest on these loans was fixed at 3 per cent. per annum, and the loans required to be repaid within a period of five years.

35. The sum of £50,000 voted will not be sufficient to cover the expenditure in connection with the three hurricanes, and consequently the Legislature is to be invited to pass a new Hurricane Relief Act to cover the estimated cost of reconstruction.

36. Apart from the loss of life and the immediate damage to property, the sponge and sisal industries have been temporarily crippled, and it will be some time before they return to normal, the former on account of the damage or destruction of a number of vessels of the sponging fleet, and the latter because of the destruction of the leaves of the sisal plant.

37. In spite of the severe losses and damages sustained from the three hurricanes, the Colony is quickly recovering from their effects, and at the time of writing this report advices are being received from the Out Islands stating that the new crops are about to be reaped, which will make the people independent of relief in the way of food, that a number of houses have been repaired and rebuilt, and that the Islands are recovering far more quickly than it was at first anticipated. In New Providence, within a few days after each hurricane, most of the outward traces were effaced; uprooted trees were soon removed and damaged houses restored, so that a casual visitor would have found it hard to believe that the Island had actually experienced a hurricane.

IV.—Government Finances.

38. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

			<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
			£	£
1921-22	...	...	470,987	267,402
1922-23	...	...	852,573	377,164
1923-24	...	...	553,375	452,044
1924-25	...	...	414,314	409,970
1925-26	...	...	502,202	374,126

39. The revenue in 1913-14 was £100,753, and in 1918-19 it had sunk to £81,049. The estimated revenue for the current year (1926-27) is £514,759, and it is probable that this amount will be exceeded.

40. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of March, 1926, of £966,203. Of this sum £382,875 was invested in England in trustee securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. £443,346 of the assets represent loans at 3 per cent. interest to the New Colonial Hotel Company and the Golf Course Company; and £150,000 to the Waterloo Hotel Company at 4 per cent.

41. The Public Debt now amounts to £151,123, a decrease of £2,207 since last March.

42. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony, but there is a large quantity of United States currency and British currency notes in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations—20s., 10s., and 4s.—and £100,000 worth of these notes are now in circulation.

V.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

TRADE.

43. The general trade of the Colony was seriously affected during the latter half of the year by the three hurricanes which occurred in July, September and October, for although the imports showed an increase of £398,000 over the previous year, there was a decrease of £40,126 in the export of local produce.

44. The approximate total value of the trade during the year 1926 was as follows :—

				£
Imports	...	...	...	2,159,000
Exports	...	...	...	407,000
Total (excluding specie) ...				<u>£2,566,000</u>

45. The value of the imports from the three **principal** countries of origin was as follows :—

	£
United States of America ...	1,032,000
Great Britain	510,000
Canada	460,000

46. The values of the **principal** classes of **articles imported** during 1926 were as follows :—

	£
Spirits	730,000
Wines	22,000
Cordials and liqueurs	10,000
Malt	48,000
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	25,000
Food-stuffs	406,000

47. The values of the **principal** articles of **local produce** exported were as follows :—

	£
Bark and siftings	2,039
Tomatoes, raw	26,516
Sisal hemp	40,493
Timber	48,958
Shells (chiefly turtle shell)... ..	12,469
Sponge	135,234
	<hr/>
	£265,709

AGRICULTURE.

48. Pine-apples, tomatoes and sisal hemp are the chief agricultural products of the Bahamas. Years ago pine-apples were exported in great quantities, but, owing to the deterioration of the stock and the failure of the soil, very few are now grown. The tomato industry, which has only been introduced into the Bahamas during the last few years, is steadily growing and promises to replace that of the pine-apple. The sisal hemp, which is mostly cleaned by hand, is a great help to the Out Islands peasant and tides him over many hard times.

49. Citrus fruit used formerly to be grown in great quantities, but, owing to the invasion of the blue-gray fly, instead of exporting a great deal as previously, not enough is now produced to meet the local demand. An effort is being made to revive this industry.

LAND.

50. The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 596½ square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands, in addition to the 430 square miles of Grand Bahama which is being leased to the

Grand Bahama Mercantile and Development Company, Limited. The large area still remaining to the Crown is chiefly comprised of swamp, and rocky and barren land, as the land most suitable for agriculture was acquired long ago by private persons.

51. The present policy of the Crown is not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or agriculture, when an application for a grant in fee simple would be considered. During the year 1926 eighty-two Crown Land Grants have been issued for a total area of 655 acres.

52. The value of all land has considerably increased, especially on the Island of New Providence, on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony, stands. The vacant Crown Land on New Providence is of little value for agriculture, but the Island has developed so rapidly as a tourist resort that the land is greatly in demand.

53. Crown Land in New Providence is sold by auction at an upset price fixed according to value, and deferred payments are allowed. On the small outer islands of the Colony leases are granted with the right to purchase if an island is permanently improved. On the larger islands, if extensive tracts are sold, special terms are arranged.

VI.—Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

FORESTRY.

54. The Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing literally side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of "pine-barren." The pine trees are suitable for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

55. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in *lignum vitae* and logwood. *Sabicu*, locally known as "horseflesh" is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of *Madeira* and cedar.

56. There is a steady demand for *cascarilla* bark; 255 cwt. were exported during the year. The shrub grows wild on the southern islands of the Group, the best quality being found on Atwood's Cay. Experimental plots have been planted, and it is hoped to increase the supply by the cultivation of large acreages.

SALT.

57. A good supply of coarse salt known as "kitchen" salt is produced in ponds at Inagua, Rum Cay and Ragged Island, and a small quantity is exported.

FISHERIES.

58. There are quantities of excellent fish in the waters of the Colony, but there is no fishing except for local consumption. There was formerly some trade in bêche-de-mer, which was exported to China, but this trade has practically disappeared. Turtle shell is exported, and there is a fairly large trade in conch shells; the cameo of commerce is manufactured from the lip of this shell.

59. Perhaps the principal industry of the Colony is sponging. Sponges are found in great quantities in all shallow waters of the Bahamas, especially around the islands of Andros, Abaco, Exuma, Acklin's and Eleuthera. A large number of small vessels is employed on this work, the sponges being hooked up from the bottom by the crews of these vessels. Sponges are being planted in several localities, and extensive experiments have been carried out by an expert sent out by the Imperial Government.

VII.—Banks.

60. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch at Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank worked by the Post Office Department.

VIII.—Legislation.

61. The Water Supply Act, 1926, provides for the inauguration of a water supply system for New Providence, and the Water Works Loan Act, 1926, authorises the raising of the necessary funds for carrying out the scheme.

62. Provision is made in the Secondary Education Act, 1926, for grants-in-aid to any school in the Colony which provides a secondary education, and which meets certain requirements based on the average attendance of pupils, on the number and qualifications of the teachers, and on the results of certain prescribed examinations.

63. The Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1926, is to enable the Bahamas to come into line with the other countries that have accepted the recommendations of the International Conference on Maritime Law held in Brussels in October, 1922, and October, 1923.

64. The Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement Act, 1926, was passed to ratify and confirm the Canada-British West Indies-Bermuda-British Guiana-British Honduras Trade Agreement, 1925.

65. The Imperial Preference Act, 1926, is intended to give the Mother Country and any other part of the British Empire whose Customs tariff is on the whole as favourable to the Colony the same preference as is granted to Canada under the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement Act, 1926.

IX.—Education.

66. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years, and is provided free by the Government. In 1925-26 a sum of £21,278 was expended from public funds on primary education under the direction of the Board of Education, a body nominated by the Governor.

67. There are now seven Government and Grant-in-aid primary schools in New Providence (population 13,000) and 100 in the Out Islands (population 40,000). At first sight the number of schools seems adequate, but it must be remembered that there are so many islands, and the settlements on these islands are so scattered, that a great many children are not within reach of a school. Many of the children that do attend have to walk long distances, in great heat and along bad roads, to get to their schools; to at least one school children come in boats, managed by themselves, from neighbouring "cays."

68. The chief handicap to education, however, is the shortage of efficient teachers. The lonely life on the Out Islands, and the comparatively small salary, does not attract the best type of man, and probably not half of the teachers in the Out Islands could be described as competent. There are very few assistant teachers and in a large school the teacher is forced to depend on the help given him by "monitors," who, in many cases, are almost as ignorant as the pupils they try to teach. The Government is alive to the seriousness of the situation, and, during the year 1925, a Government High School was started in Nassau to train teachers and to provide a secondary education for those who can afford to pay the small fees charged. The Board of Education has secured the services of five teachers from England, who have been stationed at the Out Islands with a view to raising the standard of education.

69. Apart from the Government High School referred to, secondary education is in the hands of the various religious bodies, but up to the present even secondary education has not reached a very high standard.

X.—Climate.

70. The climate of the Bahamas, especially in the winter months, is one of the finest in the world, and is probably the Colony's greatest asset. From November to May the temperature averages 70° Fahrenheit; there is little rain, and cool breezes prevail. The lowest recorded temperature (in January, 1905) is 51.5°.

71. The rainy months are May, June, September and October, and it is during these months that the greatest heat is experienced, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. The average annual rainfall for the last nineteen years was forty-six inches.

XI.—Communications.

HARBOUR.

72. The dredging of the Nassau Harbour channel was arrested in January, whilst the intervening space between the turning basin and the Government wharf at Rawson Square was dredged to a depth of 17 feet 6 inches below low water, thus permitting deeper draught vessels to come alongside. The placing of the port of Miami in quarantine owing to the outbreak of smallpox considerably hampered the contractors in carrying out the work on the channel, and the rock has proved very much harder than they anticipated.

73. By the beginning of June, 445,123 cubic yards had been removed out of a total of 450,000, but continual rough weather has prevented the completion as practically all of it lies on the bar itself.

74. Tenders for the construction of a wharf have been called for, and it is expected that the work will be put in hand at an early date.

SHIPPING.

75. In 1925, 1,244 steamers and 137 sailing vessels, of a total of 642,000 tons, entered at the ports of the Colony, principally at Nassau. There is a monthly freight service from England, via Bermuda, by the steamers of the Leyland and Harrison Lines. There is a weekly passenger and freight service during the winter months, and a fortnightly service during the summer, from and to New York by the steamers of the Munson Line which are under contract with the Government. A subsidy is paid to the steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which call every three weeks on their voyage from a Canadian port to Bermuda, Nassau, Jamaica and British Honduras; the steamers also call at Nassau on their return trip northwards. There is frequent communication between Nassau and Miami, Florida. Vessels of the Royal Mail Line also call at Nassau.

76. Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats, but owing to the class of boat employed the voyages are uncomfortable and unreliable.

77. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade, and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

ROADS.

78. In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic and the roads are little more than paths in some instances. In New Providence, on the other hand, there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, 868 motor vehicles being licensed. During the year the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles.

79. Road construction at the Out Islands is being concentrated on the island of Eleuthera at present, where the Government proposes building a road suitable for motor traffic through the island for a distance of about 70 miles, with a view to developing the island agriculturally. This road will be a great boon to the tomato industry.

POST OFFICE, TELEPHONES, AND TELEGRAPHS.

80. The various post office services have been well maintained, and the telephone system has been extended.

81. The telegraph cable service to Florida was abandoned some years ago, owing to the difficulties of keeping the cable in repair, and the wireless service then instituted has proved a complete success. The service now comprises a central station of five kilowatts power at Nassau and ten stations of a half or one kilowatt power at various Out Islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without any interruption, except after each of the three hurricanes, and has handled a considerable amount of traffic, as many as 320 messages being exchanged in one day with a station in Florida.

82. Experiments were conducted with a small wireless plant, capable of communicating between stations ten to fifteen miles apart. Much success attended the trials and many of these small power plants will be installed with a view to connecting outlying cays and settlements with the larger stations.

CHAS. G. BETHEL,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Nassau,

31st January, 1927.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1925, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1925, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 6d.
FAKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 .. 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 .. 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1338 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) .. 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE. REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 16) .. 2s.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

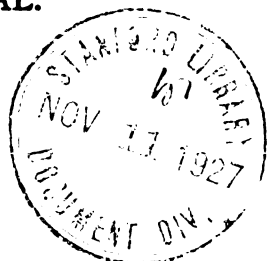
SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1331.



BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1925-26.

(For Report for 1922-23 see No. 1189, price 3d. The statistics for 1923-24 have been incorporated in the Report for 1924-25, No. 1290, price 6d.)



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Admiral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 6d. Net.

58-9-0-26.

No. 1331.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

Annual General Report for 1925–26.

I.—Geographical and Historical Note.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The Island of Ysabel was first sighted and Mendana bestowed the christian name of his wife upon the new discovery. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but this time the Solomon Islands were not located. Mendana, however, arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and founded a settlement at Graciosa Bay. The new Colony proved abortive and the settlement shortlived, for dissensions and insubordination among the members of the Colony, sickness and conflicts with the natives, and the death of Mendana, put an end to any prospect of colonisation and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

For some 200 years the Solomon Islands were apparently untouched by Europeans, but from 1767, when Captain Cartaret rediscovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast of Malaita, numbers of Europeans visited these islands. Gradually, missionaries established themselves and Mission Societies were founded, the first being the French Mission Society of Saint Mary in 1845, and, five years later, the Melanesian Mission arrived. Later still, resident traders came, and between the years 1860 and 1893 they increased in number.

A British Protectorate over the South Solomon Islands was declared in 1893, other islands being brought within the Protectorate during 1898 and 1900.

The Protectorate extends north-west and south-east for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south for a distance of 430 miles.

II.—General Observations.

A visit to the Protectorate was paid in September, 1925, by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, who spent several days in Tulagi. Meetings were held with the members of the Advisory Council and a representative gathering of the residents. His Excellency also inspected all Government Offices and public institutions at Tulagi. Prior to his departure from the Group His Excellency visited Aola, Head-quarters of the District of Guadalcanal; Kirakira, Head-quarters of the Eastern Solomons District, and Auki, Head-quarters of the District of Mala.

The principal articles of export were in good demand at satisfactory prices during the year, with the exception of ivory nuts, for which the European market suddenly collapsed owing, it is understood, to a glut of supplies of this and equivalent products from other parts of the world.

On the 25th January, the Roman Catholic Mission Church at Visale, on the Island of Guadalcanal, was destroyed by an earthquake, lasting between forty and fifty seconds. The shock was felt through the central islands of the Group and was accompanied in some localities by a tidal wave.

Of recent years much has been done to improve conditions both among Europeans and natives. The Public Health Regulation of 1918 has had beneficial results and has resulted in populated areas being more closely supervised by the Administration. Considerable headway has been made, in recent years, in draining and reclaiming low-lying swamps in Tulagi and eradicating many stagnant and mosquito-breeding pools. Sanitation has also progressed by the building of proper latrines for natives, including the police and prisoners, and the establishment of incinerators for the destruction of empty tins and refuse. It is gratifying to record that considerable success has been achieved in the campaign against mosquitoes at Head-quarters during the past five years by a gradual diminution of stagnant water and the disposal of empty tins, husks of coconuts, and other nurseries for larvae.

The figures at the 1921 census show 493 whites (386 males and 107 females) and, as nearly as can be estimated, 150,000 natives. There are also approximately 90 aliens in the group who are not included in the above figures.

Native land may be acquired under King's Regulation No. III of 1914, which provides for leases under three headings (a) Cultivation leases, (b) Grazing leases and (c) Building leases.

A revised Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate was printed in 1923 and may be purchased in the Protectorate.

The Protectorate is divided into eight Districts, each administered by a District Officer, who has a force of Constables under him. Where procurable, native clerks are provided for District Officers. Each district is sub-divided into smaller districts with a Headman in charge, who has under him village Headmen and village Constables. The District Headmen report to the District Officer all births and deaths and any offences in their district and see to the carrying out of the various communal duties necessary to native life.

Mala District.—Head-quarters at Auki. This is perhaps the wildest District in the Protectorate, and certainly the most populous. The population of Malaita is estimated at 60,000. It is pleasing to report that crime, which mainly consisted of a maintenance of the old native "club law," has, in recent years, very considerably decreased and the natives now respect and accept the Protectorate law in lieu of their old "club law."

Guadalcanal District.—Head-quarters at Aola. This large Island is not thickly populated. The population is estimated at not more than 30,000. The natives are quiet and, by some planters, preferred, as labourers, to the Malaita man. Along the coast there are some fairly good roads, but the numerous unbridged rivers and creeks render travelling difficult.

Gizo District.—Head-quarters at Gizo. Gizo is one of the Ports of Entry in the Protectorate and is the centre of a small European population, who are engaged in planting coconuts and in trading. Recent figures show the native population to be under 7,000. There is a wireless station at Kokegelo owned by the Methodist Mission Society, and a native hospital at Gizo itself. The southern portion of the Island of Choiseul is administered at present by the District Officer, Gizo, who also has under his charge the Island of Lord Howe.

Shortlands District.—Head-quarters at Faisi, Shortlands Island. This District consists of the Islands of Shortland, Fauro, Mono, and the northern part of Choiseul. There is a small native hospital on Shortland Island. Faisi is a Port of Entry. The population, exclusive of Choiseul, does not exceed 1,500.

Ysabel and Russell Islands District.—The head-quarters of the District are at Tunnibuli. The population of these islands is 6,000. There are a number of European coconut plantations in the District and the natives have themselves commenced to plant. On the Island of Ysabel there are some moderately good bridle paths. In the Russell Islands are some of the principal coconut plantations of Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations, Limited.

Eastern Solomons District.—The Head-quarters of the District are at Kirakira. The Eastern Solomons District consists of San Cristoval, Ugi, and Ulawa Islands, and the population is 7,000. There are a few European-owned coconut plantations on these

islands and on some smaller ones. The native population is at present stationary after some years of showing a decreasing birth-rate.

Santa Cruz District.—The Head-quarters are at Peu on the Island of Vanikoro. This is a new District, opened in 1923 in consequence of the commencement of kauri timber-cutting on the Island of Vanikoro by the San Cristoval Estates, Limited. This Company has, since 1923, changed hands and management and is now known as the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company, Limited. The District consists of a number of groups of islets and several isolated islands such as Utupua, Vanikoro and Tikopia. The condition of the natives as regards sanitation and general village hygiene was in a very bad and primitive state owing to the isolated situation of the District, but, with the advent of a District Officer, there has been a marked improvement. The population is estimated at 7,000.

Tulagi District.—In addition to the Island of Tulagi (including Makambo and Gavutu) the District consists of the Islands of Ngela (Florida) and Savo. The Officer Commanding Armed Constabulary acts as District Officer, with his head-quarters at Tulagi. He has no judicial powers. All necessary court cases are taken by the Chief Magistrate and Legal Adviser.

The District Officers, Mala, Gizo and Ysabel are supplied with auxiliary vessels. Other Districts have whale-boats and auxiliary vessels on loan from neighbouring Districts or from the Labour Department. On the whole, the condition of the natives has improved in a marked degree within recent years.

III.—Government Finance.

The total Revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1926, was £71,430 5s. 3d., as against £64,091 6s. 9d. for the previous financial year.

The total Expenditure was £60,330 3s. 3d., as against £65,409 2s. 1d. for the previous year.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years have been as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1921-22	..	56,432	19 5	45,450	17 7	
1922-23	..	56,741	0 3	52,472	16 7	
1923-24	..	64,329	15 8	52,655	12 7	
1924-25	..	64,091	6 9	65,409	2 1	
1925-26	..	71,430	5 3	60,330	3 3	

Statements of Assets and Liabilities for the financial years ended 31st March, 1925, and 31st March, 1926 :—

	<i>Assets.</i>			<i>Liabilities.</i>		
	1924-25.	1925-26.	1924-25.	1925-26.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Cash :						
In hand at Bank	22,401 13 2	31,740 13 0	—	—		
Remittances ..	—	1,909 4 2	31 13 4	—		
Deposits ..	—	—	4,256 0 6	3,658 13 0		
Unallocated Stores	747 2 5	1,154 9 9	—	—		
Advances ..	267 4 11	166 16 1	—	—		
Suspense ...	—	—	325 6 5	475 19 7		
Imprests ..	333 8 2	—	—	—		
Fixed Deposits ..	24,400 0 0	25,200 0 0	—	—		
Vessels Insurance Fund ..	—	—	—	1,400 0 0		
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ..	—	—	43,536 8 5	54,636 10 5		
	£ 48,149 8 8	60,171 3 0	48,149 8 8	60,171 3 0		

IV.—Trade and Agriculture.

Returns of Imports and Exports are given as accurately as possible in the statements below :—

Return of Imports for 1925-26.

	£
Machinery	11,100
Kerosene	5,209
Benzine	6,947
Tobacco	17,371
Spirits	2,758
Wine	817
Explosives	118
Beer	3,496
Rifles	308
Drapery	19,239
Rice	26,952
Sugar	2,804
Timber	9,286
Hardware	5,777
Meats	13,939
Fish	3,023
Biscuits	12,564
Bags and Sacks	16,625
Miscellaneous	108,935
	<u>£267,268</u>

(For return of Exports *see* opposite page.)

RETURN OF EXPORTS, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

	1921-22.		1922-23.		1923-24.		1924-25.		1925-26.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bêche de Mer ..	5 tons	£ 815	7 tons 16 cwt.	£ 1,340	3½ tons	£ 310	15½ tons	£ 1,896	16 tons	£ 2,727
Copra ..	12,109 tons	173,916	16,711 tons	209,387	18,278 tons	273,563	16,508 tons	287,702	19,206 tons	309,283
Black Lip Shell ..	14 cwt.	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green Snail Shell ..	5 tons	100	8 tons	121	1 ton	17	15 tons	216	33 tons	619
Mother Pearl Shell ..	1 ton 17 cwt.	167	—	—	—	—	¾ ton	88	—	—
Trocas Shell ..	129½ tons	3,476	526 tons	14,395	205 tons	5,251	334 tons	11,153	377 tons	21,245
Turtle Shell ..	3½ cwt.	268	2 cwt.	115	3 cwt.	285	2½ cwt.	191	1½ cwt.	198
Ivory Nuts ..	71 tons	648	447 tons	3,493	474 tons	5,371	1,568 tons	23,421	1,380 tons	16,144
Timber Logs ..	330,393 sq. ft.	3,452	448,965 sq. ft.	2,836	324,645 sq. ft.	1,642	283,106 sq. ft.	4,818	526,876 sq. ft.	7,261
Miscellaneous ..	—	29	—	12	—	130	—	1,726	—	1,341
Total Value ..		£182,887		£231,699		£286,569		£331,211		£418,818

V.—Legislation.

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Regulation applies to the Protectorate the provisions of the Imperial Act (14 and 15 George V Chapter 22). Two other King's Regulations, or local interest only, were also passed during the period under review.

VI.—Education.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various Mission Societies.

For the financial year 1926-27 the sum of £300 has been included in the Estimates of Expenditure for technical educational grants to Mission schools. Reports have been asked for from the various Mission bodies, setting out particulars of the technical education which is imparted to the students, and from the three replies which have, so far, been received it would appear that efforts are being made by the Missions to encourage technical education among natives.

The Melanesian Mission report that students are taught :—

- (1) Native work : inlaid work decorations with nautilus shell.
- (2) European work : carpentry. The articles made are almost entirely church and school furniture, also boxes of different varieties for clothing or of the tool-chest type.

The Marist Mission report that technical education is not officially part of the school curriculum, but, as the Mission must depend on their students to aid them in their different industries—such as boat-building, concrete work and printing—the natives necessarily acquire a certain knowledge of what they assist in. It may be of interest to note in passing that the Roman Catholic Fathers have constructed a concrete bridge at Visale and have built a slip for repairing their vessels. A temporary church has also been put up since the original one was destroyed recently by the earthquake. Moreover, all engineering and repair work required on their launches and auxiliary vessels is done locally on the Mission Stations. Students under the care of the Catholic Mission, therefore, are bound to acquire an appreciable amount of technical education.

The South Sea Evangelical Mission report that a few of their students are instructed in carpentry, typewriting and book-binding. Attempts are also made to instruct them in canoe and boat building, but, so far, not much headway has been made in this direction.

VII.—Climate.

The climate of the Solomons is not in itself unhealthy, but malaria and blackwater fever are prevalent. Dysentery and pulmonary diseases also exist, but are confined chiefly to the natives.

From April to November the prevailing wind is from the south-east. From November to the end of March calms and heavy north-west weather may be expected. Hurricanes are unknown. The temperature varies from a maximum of 92° to a minimum night temperature of 73°.

VIII.—Communications.

The Government Wireless Station maintains communication with the outside world. In addition, there are two privately-owned wireless installations in the group—one at Kokegelo (Roviana) in the Gizo District, owned by the Methodist Mission, and the other at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz District, owned by the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company, Limited. The last two named stations are powerful enough to communicate independently with the outside world, but, in accordance with the terms of their licences, all their traffic is routed via Tulagi.

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by means of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's mail steamers. One steamer calls direct from Australia every six weeks, and, after going through the group, returns to Australia. Another vessel sails from Australia via Rabaul and enters the western end of the Protectorate at the port of Faisi in the District of Shortlands, and thence travels to Tulagi via ports and clears for Australia. Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company receive a subsidy from the Australian Government, to which subsidy the Protectorate Government contributes an annual sum of £1,800. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in the cost of Government passages and freights. Since February, 1925, Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's steamer "Makambo" has been calling from Sydney, via Vila in the New Hebrides, at Peu, Vanikoro, Santa Cruz, in connection with the Timber Company who are operating there. In addition, direct over-sea shipments of copra were made in one British cargo vessel of 3,229 tons and four Norwegian vessels of a total tonnage of 12,312 tons.

Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by planters and traders. H.M.C.S. "Ranadi" is available for inter-island and inter-port communication, and also the s.s. "Malanta," belonging to Burns, Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, and the motor vessel "Duranbah," owned by Messrs. W. R. Carpenter and Company, Limited.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's mail steamers, is carried out in an intermittent fashion through chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters.

The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Shortlands and Vanikoro. There is a Postmaster at Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters. A Money Order Service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a Postal Note Service.

During the year ended 31st March, 1926, 21 mails were despatched oversea from Tulagi, 33,835 letters were dealt with, 305 parcels and 1,053 registered articles.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289	1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327	1s.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285	6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321	1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301	9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323	1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294	9d.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332	9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317	1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292	1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309	9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273	6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300	1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315	1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308	1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296	6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290	6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297	6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293	1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326	6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298	3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303	6d.
CEYLON, 1925, No. 1243	5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329	3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1925, No. 1325	1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320	1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313	1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316	6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322	6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302	2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305	2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307	6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299	1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237	3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306	9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311	1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314	6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304	6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1248	6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318	6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287	2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319	6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1328	1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295	6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310	6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312	6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324	1s. 6d.		

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22)	4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21)	6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20)	5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18)	3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19)	4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23)	4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15)	2s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-1925 (Colonial No. 24)	9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

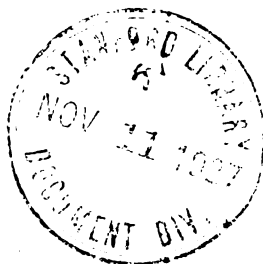
SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No 1332.



MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1925.

For Report for 1923 see No. 1234 (Price 1s. 3d.) and for Report for 1924 see No. 1281 (Price 9d.).



PRINTED IN MAURITIUS

LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses :
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh ;
York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast ;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 9d. Net.

58-28-0 25

MAURITIUS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1925

SITUATION AND AREA

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles East of Madagascar, between 57°18' and 57°48' E. long., and 19°50' and 20°31' S. lat. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ordinance 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its extreme breadth 29 miles; and its area covers 720 square miles=460,800 acres. The density of population is very high, being about 550 persons per square mile for the whole Island.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of about 53,000. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital, which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, situated at the highest part of the central plateau, has about 20,000 inhabitants. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phoenix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Beau Bassin are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in country districts are Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Poudre d'Or and Bambous.

The island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours, Réunion and Rodrigues, and certainly more stable. (J. S. Gardiner).

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° S. lat. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and an estimated population of 7,015 (3,394 males, 3,621 females), is 350 miles to the East of Mauritius, while lesser islands of some importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the Census of May, 1921, the population of the Lesser Dependencies was ascertained to be 1,810—(1,038 males, 772 females)

HISTORY

Mauritius is said to have been first discovered by the Portuguese in the beginning of the sixteenth century—probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527, when the island is shown on an official map under the name of *Santa Apollonia*, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Réunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Dom Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island *Ilha da Cirnos* or *Swan Island*, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any permanent settlement by the Portuguese who, for nearly a century, only used the Island as a port of call for repairs and supplies.

The Island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South Eastern Port to which the Commander, Admiral Wybrandt Van Warwyk, gave his own name. He took possession of the Island on behalf of his Government and named it *Mauritius*, in honour of the Statholder, Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days he set sail leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton, of the *Pearl*, visited the Island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt at colonisation was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsy Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the "Compagnie Néerlandaise des Indes", landed at Warwick-Haven or South Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores and dwelling houses were built at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the "13 Cantons" close by. These were followed by other settlers who established themselves in the neighbourhood, where Mahebourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the Island was abandoned, and was again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally and which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1644 were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper, and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the Island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French Vessel *Le Chasseur*, arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the Island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it *Isle de France*. Settlement, however, was only effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fougerai, commanding the *Triton* of St. Malo, resumed possession for the "Compagnie des Indes Orientales," after landing at Isle aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Réunion, who had come to settle, and from that time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735, Mahé de Labourdonnais succeeded M. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the Island. He left the Island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions, however, soon became difficult for the settlers owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the "Compagnie des Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the West Indies, and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling house of "Mon Plaisir," and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French Revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobin leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected and nearly all links with the mother country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French Privateers using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade gained for the Island its reputation still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared for a vigorous attack in 1810 and, after a memorable fight, Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule on the 3rd December, 1810.

The cession of the Isle de France and its dependencies to Great Britain was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, and the Island, under its former name *Mauritius*, has, since 1814, remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical but, owing to the high elevation of the central plateau, a large part of the island enjoys a temperate and even bracing climate. The average temperature of this highland region is about 60° Fah. (15.5°C) and the maximum about 80° Fah. (26.6°C). The low-lying coastal region has naturally a higher average temperature ranging from 90° Fah. (32°C) to 70° Fah. (21°C).

Mauritius lies in the track of cyclones, which are liable to occur during the months December to April. There has been no very severe cyclone since 1892.

The rainfall is irregular and varies according to the locality and elevation. In the central portion of the Island an average yearly rainfall of 175 inches is recorded, whereas regions where there is the lowest rainfall receive less than 40 inches. The rainfall of the coastal districts varies between 25 and 30 inches.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The total value of the Trade of the Colony in 1925 amounted to Rs. 106,161,738 as compared with Rs. 128,698,181 in 1924. The Customs Revenue from Imports was Rs. 5,821,967 as against Rs. 8,003,463 in 1924; and the Revenue from Exports amounted to Rs. 1,984,085 as compared with Rs. 2,414,052 in the preceding year.

Weather conditions were generally dry during the growing season but improved markedly in July and August. As a result, although tonnage was frequently low, the sucrose content of the cane was, generally, highly satisfactory and the total output of sugar but slightly below normal.

A cyclone passed close eastward of the Island on the 12th of December. The damage done to the plantations was negligible in view of the fact that harvesting was almost completed. The Sugar production amounted to 241,220 metric tons as compared with 224,710 metric tons for the previous year.

The mean prices at which sugar was sold in 1924-25 were Rs. 12.30, but it is estimated that the mean sale price for the 1925-26 season will be about Rs. 9.34 per 50 kilos.

Sir Herbert James Read, K.C.M.G., C.B., whose appointment as Governor of Mauritius was notified in August, 1924, assumed the Administration of the Colony on the 19th of February, 1925, when Sir Edward Allan Grannum, Kt., C.M.G., who had been acting as Officer Administering the Government, resumed the duties of his office as Colonial Secretary.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st December, 1925, was 393,708 or an increase of 5,965 on the previous year's figures and of 17,223 on the last Census figures (May 20, 1921).

The number of births and deaths during the year was 16,545 and 9,327 respectively.

The birth-rate in the general population was 45.2 and in the Indian population 41.5 per mille, as against 42.3 and 39.6 respectively for the previous year.

The death-rates per 1,000 in the two populations for 1925 were 23.8 and 24.2, as against 27.5 and 27.7 respectively for 1924.

The highest death-rate for 1925 is shown in Black River (32.4) and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems (19.4). The death-rate for the whole Colony (24.1 per mille) is the lowest since 1870 (22.6), and the rate (33.5) for Port Louis in 1880 has fallen to 26.1 in 1925. The number of deaths due to malaria and malarial cachexia (highest death-producing factors in Mauritius) was 1,634 as against 1,732 in 1924. The proportion to total deaths is 17.5%. Other diseases commonly fatal are pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia—785 in 1925 against 1,296 in 1924—and diseases of early infancy—1,090 in 1925 as against 1,075 in 1924.

There were 74 cases of plague during the year, of which 65 proved fatal; the figures for 1924 being 161 and 144 respectively. The largest number of cases was, as usual, in Port Louis (48). The percentage of deaths was 87.8.

There were 122 cases of Enteric Fever registered in the Island against 107 in the previous year.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) gives a ratio of 119.7 per thousand live-births against 129.6 in 1924. There were 1,439 still births registered during the year representing a rate of 87.0 per thousand live-births, as against 104.2 in 1924.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The following statement shows the number of cases treated in the public hospitals and at the dispensaries for the last five years :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Average
Hospital admission	19,127	19,337	17,069	18,663	19,810	18,801
Dispensaries	60,671	85,638	53,225	52,641	54,296	61,294
Out-door cases	5,066	6,491	12,032	15,570	19,621	11,756
	<u>84,864</u>	<u>111,466</u>	<u>82,326</u>	<u>86,874</u>	<u>93,727</u>	<u>91,851</u>

The total number of cases is above that for 1924, and is also above the average of the five-year period 1921-25.

MENTAL HOSPITAL

The total number of persons certified insane on 31st December, 1925, was 700, or 14 more than in 1924. This figure represents a ratio of insane to total population of 17.77 to 10,000.

The admissions into the Mental Hospital numbered 220. They are classified into: first admission 100, second admission 13, third admission 2, readmission from probation 28, readmission from Barkly Asylum Mental Wards 59, from Civil Hospital 2, and 16 admitted on interim order but found not insane after examination by Commissioners in Lunacy.

The number of inmates left on 31st December, 1925, was 432 (259 males and 173 females) at the Mental Hospital and 155 (62 males and 93 females) in the Barkly Mental Branch Wards.

LEPER HOSPITAL

At the Leper Hospital there were 25 patients at the beginning of the year (13 males 12 females). There were 5 admissions during the year (4 males and 1 female), 2 deaths and no discharges.

POOR RELIEF

Exclusive of the pauper cases treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries, 905 paupers, as compared with 617 in 1924, received institutional relief during 1925 at the Barkly Asylum and at different religious institutions.

2,127 paupers received pecuniary out-door relief permanently or temporarily, during 1925, as against 1,618 in 1924.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS

There were 1,497 persons committed to prison during the year, i.e. 200 more than in the previous year. Of the total, 1,437 were males and 60 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December, 1925, was 321 as against 327 in the preceding year.

There were 3 deaths among prisoners during the year. 25 prisoners were subjected to corporal punishment. There was no execution. The number of juvenile offenders was 61 against 81 in the previous year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The cases reported to the Police numbered 20,100 as against 19,558 for 1924 in connection with which 10,388 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned by the Magisterial Courts. 11 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 9 in 1924.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The total revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1925, amounted to Rs. 19,672,843, or Rs. 224,640 below the revenue for the preceding year, and Rs. 5,554,306 below the average revenue for the preceding five years.

The Expenditure amounted to Rs. 17,653,716, inclusive of Rs. 297,847 spent from Surplus Balances on Irrigation Works. The net surplus on the year's transactions of Rs. 2,019,128 together with Rs. 451,508 refunded from Loan Account Advances, Irrigation Works, added to the surplus on 30th June, 1924, viz : Rs. 11,987,189, gave a surplus on 30th June, 1925, of Rs. 14,457,825.

Of the expenditure for 1924-25, Rs. 4,536,055 were spent on personal emoluments and Rs. 13,117,661 under other charges. The corresponding figures for 1923-24 were: personal emoluments Rs. 4,543,553 and other charges Rs. 12,045,149.

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

Year	Revenue	Expenditure
1920-21	... Rs. 40,168,210*	... Rs. 24,729,540
1921-22	... 25,599,994	... 26,347,658
1922-23	... 23,547,734	... 22,031,176†
1923-24	... 19,897,483	... 16,588,702
1924-25	... 19,672,843	... 17,653,716

PUBLIC DEBT

At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony amounted to £ 1,699,057 as compared with £ 1,632,390 at 30th June, 1924. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £ 738,012 as compared with £ 701,429 at 30th June, 1924.

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The currency of the Colony consists of:—

- (1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5:—
 - (a) Bronze: 1 cent, 2 cents and 5 cents.
 - (b) Silver: 10 cents, 20 cents.
- (2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.
- (3) Nickel coins: 4 annas of India.
- (4) The Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5 and R. 1.

* Includes Rs. 13,377,987 and Rs. 2,378,029 collected under Ordinances Nos. 36 and 37 of 1920, respectively (special export taxes on Sugar for general improvements, etc.)

† Exclusive of Rs. 13,784,640 transferred to the Mauritius Improvement and Development Fund.

(5) Indian currency notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 15,214,048 as compared with Rs. 15,645,126 in 1923-24.

The average amount of silver held amounted to Rs. 5,334,798 as compared with Rs. 5,761,521 the average for 1923-24.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund), which stood at Rs. 9,879,250 on 1st July, 1924, remained the same during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 970,085 to Rs. 1,087,572. The Revenue (Interest on investments less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs. 420,205 and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a surplus of Rs. 1,087,572. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June 1925, the surplus would be increased to Rs. 1,388,200.

Government Savings Banks are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June 1925 was 36,498 as against 36,500 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,153,623 as against Rs. 5,356,104 in the preceding year. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June, 1925, there were 15,810 depositors with Rs. 2,406,252 to their credit, as against 15,730 depositors with Rs. 2,687,010 to their credit on 30th June, 1924.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent.

The private Banks are the Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India and the National Bank of South Africa.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE

The value of the trade for 1925, exclusive of Dependencies and omitting Bullion and Specie, was Rs. 106,161,738, showing a decrease of Rs. 22,536,443 on the preceding year.

The comparative values of imports and exports for 1913 and the last five years are as follows :—

Year	Imports	Exports	Total
—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1913 ...	36,607,671	32,291,706	68,899,377
1921 ...	105,744,980	157,249,822	262,994,802
1922 ...	77,039,447	91,106,703	168,146,150
1923 ...	76,835,565	69,841,931	146,677,496
1924 ...	76,415,648	52,282,533	128,698,181
1925 ...	61,682,844	44,478,894	106,161,738

The value of the re-exports was Rs. 2,032,071.

Rs. 249,479 worth of bullion and specie were imported during the year, and Rs. 185,558 were exported.

The trade value in 1925 was Rs. 77,915,279 below the average value for the five preceding years, viz : Rs. 184,077,017, and was a little above 1.5 of the trade value of 1913.

IMPORTS

As in 1924, about two-thirds of the imports came from the United Kingdom and India, the latter occupying the first place on the list of countries. France maintained its position in the third

place with a decrease on the previous year's figures. The value of imports from Australia, in 1925, showed a marked increase compared with 1924.

Notable decreases were recorded in the imports from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Union of South Africa and the United States of America.

EXPORTS

Sugar.—The following table shows the sugar exports for the last six years :—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Kilos ...	182,464,726	229,224,689	292,744,249	223,051,061	182,742,235	192,303,540
Rupees ...	124,633,854	154,592,301	88,454,321	67,227,562	49,823,753	41,250,907

Other Domestic Exports.—Exports other than sugar are not of any considerable importance. Aloe fibre, copra and rum head the list with Rs. 557,072, Rs. 154,308 and Rs. 112,202 in 1925, as compared with Rs. 413,819, Rs. 224,117 and Rs. 26,681 respectively in 1924.

The quantity and value of aloe fibre exported during each of the last six years are shown below :—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Kilos ...	874,241	287,106	1,007,296	599,554	1,092,881	1,896,445
Rupees...	248,140	100,234	385,754	164,112	413,819	557,072

Other exports are undressed skins, coconut oil, vanilla, &c.

SHIPPING

The following statement shows the number of vessels which entered and left the harbour during the last three years :—

Year	NUMBER OF VESSELS			
	Inwards		Outwards	
1923	...	207	...	207
1924	...	215	...	210
1925	...	234	...	229

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1925 was 1,252,172 tons: steamers 1,245,728 tons and sailing vessels 6,444 tons.

In the coastal trade with the Dependencies some 37 calls were made, with an aggregate of 16,671 tons.

Steamers of the following steamship lines called at Port Louis:—Union Castle Steamship Company, Limited; British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited; Messageries Maritimes; Clan Line; Ellerman-Harrison Line and the Compagnie Havraise Péninsulaire.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

The industries of the Island are entirely agricultural, the principal being the cultivation of the sugar cane which covers about 163,497 acres or one-third of the total area of the Colony.

There are 46 sugar factories as against 50 in 1924, ranging in productive capacity from 1,500 tons to 25,000 tons, and it is anticipated that the number will be further reduced as a result of centralization.

In 1925 the area cultivated by Indians was estimated to be 68,900 arpents (72,531 acres) or about 44.4% of the total cane cultivation.

Agricultural labour is almost exclusively Indian in origin and was derived from importations of indentured Indian labour until 1910, when indentured immigration from India was prohibited. Immigration was, however, resumed, subject to certain conditions and on a restricted scale, for a period of twelve months ending on 31st May, 1924. The importation has not since been renewed.

There were, on the 31st December 1925, 17,354 immigrants settled in the Colony, consisting of 12,433 males and 4,921 females, and including 253 new immigrants (195 males and 58 females). The total number of labourers serving under written or verbal contract on estates was 18,018 on 31st December 1925.

The Indian population on estates was estimated at 42,558 on 31st December 1925—i.e. 16,284 men, 11,511 women and 14,763 children.

The fall in sugar prices has led to a further reduction of about 4,000 acres in the total area under cane cultivation which, at the end of 1924, was about 167,165 acres. Strenuous efforts have been made on Estates to reduce the cost of production. New sugar machinery and tramway material to the value of Rs. 1,350,069 and Rs. 622,687 respectively were imported during the year. Ploughs and tractors are now used on a large scale, and, in view of the much cheapened cost of labour, it is hoped that the cost of production will, henceforth, be considerably reduced.

A Sugar Planters Syndicate was formed in 1920 and reconstituted under Ordinance No. 7 of 1921.

SUBSIDIARY INDUSTRIES

The depression in relation to the sugar industry has caused increased attention to be paid to the question of subsidiary industries and a Committee has been appointed by the Government to consider steps to be taken to facilitate development in that direction.

ALOE FIBRE

Aloe fibre is produced mainly from the leaves of *Furcraea Gigantea* (Mauritius hemp), a plant which grows wild all over the island. The area under aloe is estimated at about 20,000 acres.

Quotations for aloe fibre fluctuated between Rs. 500 and Rs. 390 per ton.

COCONUTS

Coconut growing is confined to the extreme littoral of the Island. No great changes of importance were recorded during the year in connection with this Industry.

The copra production from the Lesser Dependencies average between 800 and 900 tons yearly.

TOBACCO

Efforts to develop the tobacco industry have been continued during the year, and the system of permits for the cultivation of tobacco without payment of tax still obtains.

At the end of 1925 there were approximately 250 acres under cultivation, representing an increase of 100% in two years. Experiments have been carried out for the production of bright leaf for cigarette purposes and the results are most promising.

There are now three Chinese, and one government, factories in the Island.

OTHER CROPS

Vanilla.—This industry showed no marked development, in spite of favourable market conditions.

Tea.—The tea industry shows no sign of progress, the local produce being unable to compete with foreign imported teas.

Food Crops.—In general food crops showed marked progress during the year. In 1924 maize was grown on about 2,000 acres, and manioc on 3,000. There was an increase under both heads in 1925.

Vegetables which occupied 3,000 acres in 1924 have increased by about 20%.

LIVE STOCK

The local stock breeding industry remained practically stagnant. Importation of cattle from Madagascar numbered 9,044 heads of a total value of Rs. 622,080.

Special interest, however, has been given to the rearing of small stock, notably goats, poultry and rabbits.

The Government Dairy at Curepipe continued to work satisfactorily, and interest in improved dairy conditions continued to be manifested.

Other industries.—The principal minor industries are the following:

Engineering works, Bakeries, Docks, (lauding, shipping, etc.), Fisheries, Lime Burning, Distilleries, Electric Light and Power Supply, Salt, Leather Tanning, Ice making, Oil (ground nuts), Vinegar making; also biscuits, aerated water, furniture, charcoal, soap, bricks, tiles, pottery, aloe ropes, vacoa bags, boot making, etc.

Distilleries.—At present alcohol is produced mainly for consumption as Rum and the output was approximately 638,000 litres as against about 530,000 litres in 1924. In 1925, 86,370 litres of rum were exported as against 38,294 in 1924.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

On the 30th June, 1925, there were 30 Societies and the total membership amounted to 2,994, while the total working capital on the same date was Rs. 311,663 or a decrease of about Rs. 25,000, as compared with year ended June 30th, 1924.

FORESTS

Public Departments were supplied during the year with 1,375 cords of firewood for which they paid Rs. 20,621.

The revenue derived from sales of timber, fuel and minor forest produce during the year was Rs. 92,226 as against Rs. 116,998 during 1924.

FISHERIES

In August, 1925, a Commission was appointed to enquire into, and report upon, the conditions of this industry and to suggest such measures as may appear necessary for placing it on a better

basis, especially with a view to increasing and cheapening the supply of fish for public consumption. The matter is still receiving consideration.

LEGISLATION

During the year 1925, 47 Ordinances were passed, of which the following are the most important or otherwise require special mention :—

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY) Ordinance, 1925, (No. 2) which provides for the installation of wireless telegraphy on board British ships registered in Mauritius.

THE TOWN BOARDS PENSIONS ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 8) providing for the grant of pensions and gratuities to officers or servants of Town Boards.

THE ANIMAL DISEASES (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 9) which regulates the importation of animals into the Colony with the view of protecting the Island from the introduction of animal diseases.

THE EMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 27) which regulates the emigration of skilled labour from Mauritius with the view of preventing emigrants being left destitute in a foreign country and having to be repatriated at the expense of the Colony.

THE DECEASED PUBLIC OFFICERS SALARY ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 30) which increases the amount of the gratuities payable on the death of a Public Officer.

THE PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 31) which provides for the grant of a gratuity with a reduced pension on retirement of a Public Officer.

THE SAVINGS BANK (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 40) which creates a branch of the Savings Bank at Rodrigues and extends to that dependency certain provisions of the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1898. This Ordinance also provides for the increase of deposits in the Savings Bank.

THE CUSTOMS ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 46) which consolidates and amends the Customs law. This Ordinance embodies all the necessary legal machinery for the protection of the revenue and the administration of the Customs Department under modern trade conditions.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, 1925, (No. 47) which consolidates and brings up to date the law of Public Health (apart from Quarantine).

EDUCATION

At the close of the year there were 149 primary schools in the Colony : 57 Government and 92 denominational schools assisted by government grants, of which 65 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 4 Hindoo and 2 Mohammedan. The average attendance was 23,970 as compared with 22,582 in 1924. The attendance of Indian children was 18,174 (boys 15,533, girls 2,641), an increase of 960 on the previous year.

The total number of girls educated in Primary Schools was 10,206 as against 10,028 in 1924.

During the year 283 candidates competed for the Boys' Scholarship Examination for free tuition at the Royal College. Of these 43 passed. Six Scholarships and six Exhibitions were

awarded. There were 155 students for the four Girls' Scholarships, of whom 20 passed.

838 candidates (480 men and 358 women) entered for Teachers' Examinations during the year, 28 of whom (12 men and 16 women) passed. First Class certificates were awarded to 2 female teachers.

The number of candidates was greater than in the previous year, but the results were very poor, especially as regards the Monitors' Examination at which only 26 candidates out of 649 succeeded in securing a pass.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The number of Secondary Schools in the Colony was 9, as in 1924. The total number on roll was 776 boys and 698 girls, while the average attendance was 685 and 564 respectively, as compared with 751 boys and 662 girls on roll for the previous year, with average attendance of 669 and 554 respectively.

In the Secondary Schools, exclusive of the Royal College, the passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations held during the year were as follows :—

		Boys		Girls
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Junior	...	5	...	2
Senior	...	6	...	6

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College. The year opened with 420 pupils on the roll and, on 31st December, 1925, the number was 349; while the average attendance for the year was 368.

There are two scholarships offered annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Cambridge University Examination Syndicate, of the value of £ 1,000 each, tenable for four or five years, with £ 75 passage allowance to or from England. The holders may join any University in the British Empire or study at any scientific or technical institution in the United Kingdom.

Since 1st January 1920 these scholarship allowances have been temporarily increased by 30 per cent.

In January and June, 1925, 3 pupils passed the London University Matriculation Examination in the 1st Division and 1 in the 2nd Division, while 3 candidates passed the Intermediate Examination in Science.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

The College Buildings were completed and opened for work in January 1925.

During the year a course of lectures on Hygiene and Sanitation as applied to Estate conditions was delivered to first-year students. The course of training in Animal Husbandry was made to include practical work in relation to farm animals on the Government Farm, while a special course of instruction in Poultry Keeping was carried out.

In January, 1925, eleven new whole time students were admitted to the College. During the year six second-year and three third-year students followed the College courses; during the same period two part-time students were attached to the College for special instruction, so that in all twenty two students were on the College Books.

The examination of the City and Guilds of London Institute in Sugar Technology was held in April, 1925, when two candidates passed in the second Division. Examinations for the Registration of Agricultural Chemists were held in July; one candidate passed the Preliminary and three the final Examination.

One laureateship was awarded in 1925. The laureate is pursuing a course of study in relation to the Technology of Sugar Manufacture and Engineering at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

PUBLIC WORKS

The following are the principal works carried out in 1925 in addition to the usual maintenance and repairs:—

Sanitary Office at Mahebourg.

Forest Rangers Quarters at Nouvelle Découverte.

Large improvements to Victoria Hospital.

Enlargement of Bacteriological Laboratory.

Quarters for linemen at Rose Belle.

Quarters for cemetery keeper and labourers at Union Park.

Nouvelle France Police Station.

New Operating Room, Flacq Hospital.

New Ward, Long Mountain Hospital.

The construction of cottages for the working class at Bell Village was continued.

The construction of pit and pail latrines on Government offices and buildings has been proceeded with.

WATER WORKS

Mare aux Vacoas.—In addition to the maintenance works, the following lengths of new mains have been laid:—8,050 feet of 1", 1300 of 1½", 5,250 of 2", 1,920 of 3" and 1,440 of 4". Eight public fountains were erected and 605 new supplies granted.

The separate main for the improvement of the Moka supply has been completed and the Camp Fouquereaux scheme has been started and is progressing satisfactorily.

Three additional filters are being put up at La Marie. The type adopted is the Slow Sand Filter similar to those existing at present. The filters will afford an additional filtering surface of 98,164 square feet.

Port Louis.—A large reservoir to contain one million gallons of water is in course of construction at Maupin and with the Monneron reservoir the town of Port Louis will have service reservoirs of a total capacity of over two million gallons. The filling in of the filters at the Chlorination Plant with stones and sand is progressing.

Important extensions and improvements have been made to the various District Board water supplies.

DRAINAGE WORKS

The work on the main Sewerage Scheme in Port Louis progressed speedily during the year.

The Maupin street section was linked to the d'Entrecasteaux section which has now been completed. A section from Armoury stream and d'Orleans section has also been completed, so that with the exception of two gaps at Gravel Lane and Armoury stream

the whole gravitation main from Mère Barthelmy street to the sea has been completed.

The connections of Bell Village to the main sewer have been completed.

IRRIGATION WORKS.

Nicolière-Midlands scheme.—The construction works connected with this scheme have progressed steadily during the year.

The Nicolière reservoir is nearing completion. The distributory system has been studied on its main lines and excavation works are progressing.

On the Nicolière side a Feeder Channel from Midlands to Nicolière has been excavated on a length of 2,761 feet.

On the Midlands side, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of channel has been constructed.

La Ferme Scheme.—This scheme was put to a severe test this year, the rainfall and the river system feeding La Ferme having been below the normal.

To guard against shortages Rivière du Poste is being diverted into the Mare-aux-Vacoas and a reliable supply can be had therefrom. The price charged for water has been reduced, as from the 1st July, 1925, from one rupee per 8,000 cubic feet to one rupee per 12,000 cubic feet.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

RAILWAYS

The total length of the Mauritius Government Railway is 120 miles exclusive of the Bois Chéri Light Railway of about 24 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The gross earnings during the year were Rs. 4,930,244 as against Rs. 5,102,681 for the previous year, or a decrease of Rs. 172,437.

The receipts for passenger traffic showed a decrease of Rs. 320,199 over the previous year's figures. As regards goods traffic the tonnage conveyed was 550,040 tons as compared with 494,708 tons in 1923-24, giving an increase of Rs. 84,795 in the earnings.

The working expenses amounted to Rs. 4,251,916, as against Rs. 4,165,287 in 1923-24, or an increase of Rs. 86,629.

The total revenue was	...	...	Rs. 4,930,244
The total expenditure	...	...	4,251,916

Surplus	...	...	Rs. 678,328
Less :—Interest and Sinking Fund	Rs. 419,173		
Alterations to Stations	29,703		
Contribution to Pension Fund	81,461		
„ Renewals Fund	640,000		
			<hr/> 1,170,337

Loss on Working at 30th June, 1925	...	Rs. 492,009
------------------------------------	-----	-------------

The amount paid under personal emoluments was Rs. 794,841 as against Rs. 783,722 in 1923-24.

BOIS CHERI LIGHT RAILWAY

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from the Savanne branch. The total paying traffic during the year amounted to 23,906 tons, as against 25,188 tons in the previous year.

The actual working expenses were Rs. 25,874 and the total earnings Rs. 30,024, thus leaving a balance in favour of earnings of Rs. 4,150.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The Island is well served by Road communications, there being altogether seven hundred miles of road open for traffic, out of which 550 miles are under the charge of the Public Works Department, the remainder being maintained by the District Boards and Townships.

In spite of heavy motor traffic the roads have been kept in a very fair condition.

The tarring of roads is being extended as rapidly as possible with successful results and bad curves and hills are being improved.

The rolling and tarring of the road from Port Louis to Curepipe is progressing.

General improvements to the roads and bridges taken over from the Municipality of Port Louis have been continued.

The gradual reconstruction of timber bridges in ferro-concrete is being continued.

Rempart Bridge in Black River has been reconstructed in ferro-concrete.

POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES

The total Revenue from the Post Office in 1925 amounted to Rs. 419,887, or a decrease of Rs. 68,337 on that of the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 495,419, showing an increase of Rs. 148,266 as compared with 1924. The total expenditure includes Rs. 128,430 spent on the laying of underground cable, a non-annually recurrent work. The excess of expenditure over revenue was Rs. 75,532.

TELEPHONES

Telephonic communication, constituted and owned by the Oriental Telephone & Electric Co. Ltd., has not maintained the progress of recent years. There are five exchanges opened to the public with 3,326 circuit miles of wire (2,094 miles being underground and 1,232 miles aerial) giving service to 1,124 stations, 971 being direct exchange lines. The Company deals with approximately 215,000 calls per month.

**STATISTICAL AND OTHER BOOKS OF REFERENCE
CONCERNING MAURITIUS**

Colonial Office List (Annual, London).

Reports on Mauritius in Colonial Reports (Annual, London).

Mauritius Blue Book (Annual, Mauritius).

Mauritius Almanac (Annual, Mauritius).

Agricultural Bulletins (Occasional, Mauritius):—

General Series

Scientific Series

Statistical Series.

Leaflet Series.

- Ross, Sir Ronald : Prevention of Malaria in Mauritius (London, 1908).
 Report of Mauritius Royal Commission, 1909 (London).
 Walter, A. : The Sugar Industry of Mauritius (London, 1909).
 Harriott, G.M. : Reports on the possibilities of Irrigation in Mauritius (Mauritius, 1913 and 1914).
 Macmillan, A. : Mauritius Illustrated (London, 1914).
 de Froberville, L. H. : *Ephémérides Mauriciennes*.
 „ : *Le Combat du Grand Port* (Mauritius, 1910).
 d'Unienville, Le Baron : *Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dépendances* (Mauritius, 1886).
 d'Epinay, Adrien : *Renseignements pour servir à l'histoire de l'Ile de France et ses Dépendances* (Mauritius, 1890).
 Pitot, Albert : *T'Eylandt Mauritius: Esquisses Historiques, 1598-1710*.
 „ : *L'Ile de France: Esquisses Historiques*.
 Baissac, Charles : *Le Folk-lore Mauricien* (Maisonneuve, Paris).
 „ : *Le Patois Créole Mauricien* (Mauritius).
 Hart, W. Edward : *Le Jardin Botanique des Pamplemousses* (Mauritius, 1916).
 „ : *L'Ile Maurice*, (Mauritius, 1921).
 Hart, Robert Edward : *Les Volontaires Mauriciens aux Armées*. (Mauritius, 1919).
 Balfour, Andrew, C.B., C.M.G., M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H. : *Report on Medical and Sanitary Matters in Mauritius* (Waterlow and Sons Ltd., London, 1922).
 Mansergh, James and Sons, MM. Inst. C.E., MM. Assoc. Cons. E. : *Report on questions of Water Supply and Sewerage of Port Louis and the Plaines Wilhems Towns* (Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., London, 1922).
 Coode, Fitzmaurice, Wilson and Mitchell : *Report on Port Louis Harbour* (August 1922).
 Austen, H.C.M., A.M.I.C.E., O.B.E., Harbour Engineer : *Report on Port Louis Harbour* (Mauritius, 1923).
 Mac Gregor, Malcolm E. : *Report on the Anopheline of Mauritius*. (Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., London, 1924).

Port Louis,
 27th October, 1926.

H. LALOUETTE,
 Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1926, No. 1330 9d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 .. 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290 .. 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 .. 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 .. 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 .. 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
CYPRUS, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 .. 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 .. 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 .. 2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1328 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 .. 6d.
GRENADE, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
'IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 6s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial No. 15) .. 2s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-25 (Colonial No. 24) 9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

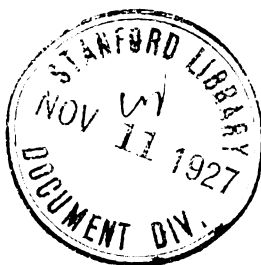
Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

No. 1333.

GOLD COAST.

REPORT FOR 1925-26.

(For Reports for 1923-24 and 1924-25, see Nos 1255 and 1287, respectively (Price 2s. 3d. each).)



Printed in the Gold Coast Colony.

LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses :
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh ;
York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast ;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 2s. 6d. Net.

58-20-0-26.

INDEX

CHAPTER.	PAGE
PREFACE-GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL	5
I.—GENERAL	19
II.—FINANCE	21
III.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY	27
(i) Trade.	
(ii) Land.	
(iii) Agriculture.	
(iv) Veterinary.	
(v) Forestry.	
(vi) Mines.	
(vii) Geological Survey.	
IV.—LEGISLATION	42
V.—EDUCATION	46
VI.—MEDICAL AND SANITARY	50
VII.—POLICE, PRISONS AND CRIMINAL STATISTICS, ETC. ..	55
VIII.—COMMUNICATIONS	60
(i) Shipping.	
(ii) Harbours.	
(iii) Railways.	
(iv) Roads.	
(v) Motor Transport.	
(vi) Posts and Telegraphs.	
IX.—PUBLIC WORKS	66
X.—SURVEYS	68
XI.—WORK CONDUCTED BY THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE ..	71

PREFACE.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL.

1. The Gold Coast lies between $1^{\circ} 14'$ East and $3^{\circ} 7'$ West longitude, and $4^{\circ} 45'$ and $11^{\circ} 10'$ North latitude. It is bounded on the South by the Gulf of Guinea, and on the remaining sides by French territory-Mandated Togoland on the East, Upper Senegal and Sudan on the North, and the Ivory Coast on the West.

2. The Gold Coast is divided into three parts. The Gold Coast Colony—area 23,490 square miles; Ashanti—area 24,560 square miles; the Northern Territories—area 30,600 square miles—a total area of 78,650 square miles. To this is now added the narrow strip of Togoland—area 13,040 square miles—administered by the Gold Coast Government under the Mandate allotted to Great Britain by the Peace Treaty.

TRIBAL ORGANISATION.

3. To-day the Gold Coast Colony is composed of a number of small, self-contained and independent states; which, however, possess similar customs and forms of government, in fact its organisation remains much the same as when Europeans first became acquainted with the country. A measure of unity is imparted to these states by their common allegiance to His Majesty the King and by the fact that all have voluntarily accepted the power and jurisdiction of the British Crown, as exercised by its servants, as the ultimate determining force in the administration of the country and in the management of the affairs of its inhabitants.

4. In Ashanti, however, there was a central authority—the King of Ashanti—who resided in Kumasi and conquered and exacted allegiance from the various tribes in the country.

5. The position in the Northern Territories was similar to that in the Colony and to-day we find in the Protectorate all that remains of the three great kingdoms of Dagomba, Moshi, and Mamprussi, existing side by side with the survivors of smaller tribes who were subdued by them in war.

6. The tribes in the Colony (except in the eastern and western coastal districts) have very similar customs and constitutions to those of Ashanti and their languages all appear to have been derived from Twi. It is generally believed that they are all the descendants of a race, the Akans, whose original home was in the districts beyond Salaga.

7. From there pressure from the north forced them to **migrate** southwards and they gradually occupied and spread through the forest belt. Eventually numbers of them reached the coastal region where they subdued the tribes who were already living there. Others remained in the forest belt where their enemies from the north could not follow them. At some point during the migration the Akans became divided into two main sections, the Fantis and the Ashantis, the former occupying most of the coastal districts and the latter the forest belt.

8. Other races have occupied parts of the eastern and western areas of the littoral, and the Northern Territory peoples bear no resemblance to the Akans but are themselves split up into several different tribes.

THE GOLD COAST AND THE ANCIENT WORLD.

9. There is good reason to believe that Greek, Carthaginian, and Phœnician traders touched various places on the Gold Coast during their voyages, but such written records as exist do not enable any precise identifications to be made. Interesting evidence, however, is provided by the presence of Agra (or Aggrey) beads.* These beads are known to have been made by the Phœnicians and the secret of their manufacture has now been lost. They are found in the Colony and their value is generally computed at their weight in gold. They may have been introduced overland by immigrants from the northern or eastern shores of Africa, but against this is the fact that they are rarely found any considerable distance from the coast. A legend affirms that they are always found in the neighbourhood of gold, but this may have originated in the general burying of treasure (gold, beads, etc.) in time of war and to the defeat and scattering of their owners.

10. Herodotus also describes what has been called "The Silent Trade" which was practised on the Gold Coast and other parts of the littoral of the Gulf of Guinea until comparatively recent times. He quotes the Carthaginians as saying that they traded in a region of Libya beyond the Pillars of Hercules. They used to land, leave their goods on the beach, make fires to attract the natives and return to their ships. The natives would then come and inspect the goods and place against them the amount of gold they were willing to pay and go away. The traders then landed again, took the gold, if they considered it sufficient, left the goods and departed. If they did not think the price enough they returned to the ships and waited for it to be increased. There is good reason to believe that a similar practice obtained between the natives of the country and the traders who came by caravan across the Sahara.

*Agra beads have now been widely imitated and it is very difficult to obtain the real article.

EUROPEAN RIVALS ON THE GOLD COAST.

11. To the Portuguese must be given the credit of being the European pioneers on the Gold Coast. A claim has been put forward that the French made the first discoveries in 1364 and that they built a fort at Elmina, parts of which the Dutch are supposed to have incorporated in Elmina Castle when they reconstructed it after its capture from the Portuguese. No mention of this discovery, however, is made by French contemporary writers and the evidence is by no means conclusive, although the natives until recently pointed out a hill near Takoradi which they said was the site of a French fort built many years ago before the arrival of any other European nation.

12. Prince Henry the Navigator (1397-1463) did much to encourage the Portuguese seamen and to his enterprise was due the gradual extension of their voyages down the west coast of Africa. The Portuguese made every effort to confine their discoveries and the resultant trade to themselves and, in 1430, they obtained from the Pope, to whom as Head of the Church all lands were supposed to belong, a Bull giving them all the islands already discovered, and all future discoveries in Guinea. This was confirmed by Pope Sextus IV. after the foundation of Elmina.

13. The first records we have of the Portuguese appearance on the Gold Coast relate to the voyage of Juan de Santerem and Pedro d'Escobar, who, in 1471, discovered the trade of Oro de la Mina (or Gold of the Mine), in the neighbourhood of Elmina or Chama. The first Portuguese settlement took place eleven years later, when, in 1482, Diego d'Azambuja appeared off Elmina with a fleet. After negotiations with the local chief he rapidly constructed a fort, the materials for which he had brought with him from Portugal. He placed a garrison there and remained himself as Governor for two-and-a-half years.

14. The English connection with the Gold Coast dates from the middle of the sixteenth century. It is possible that English seamen made voyages to the coast in the reign of Edward I. but no definite evidence exists. The first records are those of the voyage of Thomas Windham and Antonio Anes Pinteado, who, in 1553, traded east and west of Elmina and went on as far as Benin River. Other voyages were made by John Lok and William Towrson and in 1555 the English were invited by the chief to build a fort at Kormantin. The English traders met with strenuous opposition from the Portuguese and frequent collisions occurred and after some years, owing partly to this and partly to the opening of Sierra Leone, English trade with the Gold Coast lapsed for the time being. By 1497 the Portuguese had actively commenced slave trading, but the English took no part till 1562, when Hawkins carried off slaves for the first time.

15. The first recorded appearance of the Dutch occurred in 1595 and their first lodge was built in 1598 at Mori, this was followed shortly after by lodges at Kormantin and Butri. They soon began to challenge the Portuguese and in 1625 they made an unsuccessful attack on Elmina Castle. Twelve years later, 1637, they made another attempt and Elmina was forced to surrender, and, in 1642, they also captured fort St. Anthony at Axim. The loss of Elmina and Axim brought to an end the effective occupation of any part of the Gold Coast by the Portuguese, and their subsequent appearances were spasmodic and of short duration. After its capture Elmina Castle was considerably enlarged and strengthened by the Dutch. During this period the *first English trading company called "the Company of Adventurers of London trading into Africa" came into being. It was formed in 1618, but its ventures ended in failure. It was followed, however, by a second company incorporated in 1631, which built the fort at Kormantin and lodges at several places along the coast.

16. At a date which cannot now be determined, but is supposed to have been about 1623, a lodge named Ursu Lodge was built by the Portuguese at Christiansborg and this was occupied by the Swedes in 1645. The Swedes were driven out by the Danes in 1657 who made many alterations and in course of time built most of what is now the Castle and Government House.

17. In 1679 the Portuguese had a brief spell of renewed occupancy, buying the fort from an officer in the employ of the Danes, who had revolted and murdered the Danish Governor, but they were soon forced to resell it to the Danes. In 1693 the Akwamus captured it from the Danes who again redeemed it the following year. The Castle was badly damaged by an earthquake in 1862 but was subsequently repaired and a wooden bungalow erected on the roof of the main building. About twenty-three years ago it became Government House.

18. A fort or castle at Cape Coast was probably built by the Swedes in 1652 and the present Castle by the English ten years later. After passing through the hands of the Danes, Dutch, and natives, it remained in the possession of the English on the conclusion of peace with Holland in 1667, when, indeed, it was the only fort left to them on the coast. The loss of all the other forts and lodges caused the ruin of the third English company, viz. :—"The Company of Royal Adventurers of England trading to Africa," which had been formed in 1662. In 1658 the Danes built a fort near Cape Coast Castle which they called Fredericksborg, but in 1685 this was bought by the British who allowed it to fall into disrepair.

*In 1561 and 1562 an abortive attempt was made to trade with the Gold Coast by ships sent out by a syndicate called the Company of Merchant Adventurers for Guinea but on its failure their adventures came to an end.

19. The Dutch were the first to build forts at Accra, where they erected one in 1650. They were followed by the British in 1673. In that year "The Royal African Company" which had been formed in 1672, built James Fort, Accra. Subsequently this Company also built forts at Komenda and Anamabo.

20. The Dutch fort at Sekondi was built between 1670 and 1675.

21. The Brandenburgers (Prussians) landed at Princes in 1682 and built forts at Manfro Hill, called Fredericksburg, at Akwida and Takrama, but they retired from the coast in 1720, their possessions falling to the Dutch.

22. During the seventeenth century, as the result of the wars between Holland and England, the fortunes of their representatives on the Gold Coast fluctuated considerably, but the end of the century still found the Dutch and the English the keenest trade rivals. Gold, the discovery of which was originally responsible for the European connection with the country, had now become of secondary importance, the main trade being in slaves, and most of the forts contained large barracoons where the slaves were confined until they could be shipped away.

23. The early years of the eighteenth century witnessed the British gradually strengthening their position. Forts were established at Dixcove, Sekondi, Komendah, Anamabo, Winneba, etc., and in 1757 one was built by invitation of the local chief in Appollonia.

24. In 1752 the Royal African Company was dissolved and a new company formed called "The African Company of Merchants," membership of which was open to all British merchants on payment of a fee of £2. A subsidy was granted to this company by Parliament.

THE GOLD COAST IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

25. In 1807 the slave trade was abolished and from then on British cruisers made every effort to suppress the traffic. Domestic slavery, however, continued to exist for many years.

26. In 1821 the "African Company of Merchants" was abolished and all its possessions transferred to the Crown and the British settlements on the Gold Coast were placed under the Government of Sierra Leone.

27. The Imperial Government decided to withdraw in 1828 but, after further consideration, handed over control to a Committee of local and London merchants, and, in 1830, Mr. George Maclean was appointed Governor by this Committee. Maclean materially increased the authority and prestige of the British and by sitting with the Chiefs in the native Courts gradually introduced British

influence into native affairs and was able to modify, when necessary, the harshness or inequalities of the native Akan customary law in accordance with the principles of British justice. He abolished slave trading entirely in the area under his influence and made more or less successful efforts to stop human sacrifices.

28. The Crown re-assumed control of the Gold Coast in 1843 which was once more placed under Sierra Leone. Commander Hill, R.N., was appointed Governor and Mr. Maclean, Judicial Assessor. In 1844 Commander Hill negotiated a "Bond" with the Fanti chiefs which acknowledged British power and jurisdiction and arranged for crimes to be tried by British law, thereby going one step further in the gradual extension of British authority and the co-ordination of native customs with the general principles of British law. The "note" system by which the British and other European nations had paid rent to the native chiefs for the land on which their forts stood had come to an end as far as the British were concerned at the battle of Dodowa in 1826, when the Ashantis were defeated and the "notes" which they had taken from various coast tribes were all captured by the British, who thereby technically became the owners of the Dutch and Danish forts as well as of their own. European jurisdiction, however, had never extended outside the boundaries of the forts and the acknowledgment of British jurisdiction by the Fanti chiefs was, therefore, a great development and was probably due in a large measure to Maclean's character and conciliatory influence. *

29. The administration of the Gold Coast was again separated from Sierra Leone early in 1850 and the settlements raised to the status of a separate Government with Executive and Legislative Councils. Later in the same year all the Danish possessions on the Gold Coast were purchased by the British for £10,000. The lodges and forts were duly handed over without incident and the natives made no objection to the transfer of authority.

30. In 1852 a general meeting of chiefs and elders convened by, and under the presidency of, Governor Hill took place at Cape Coast Castle and this meeting constituted itself a Legislative Assembly with power to pass laws. At this assembly the Poll Tax Ordinance was agreed to by the chiefs and signed by them and at a subsequent meeting, held at Christiansborg, the ordinance was accepted by the kings and chiefs of the eastern districts. The Poll Tax Ordinance, for the first time in the history of the British connection, admitted the right of the natives to British protection, and in consideration for this guarantee of protection the natives, through their chiefs, agreed to the payment of the poll tax at the rate of one shilling per head. It was also agreed to pay the chiefs certain annual stipends.

* Maclean died in 1847 and is buried at Cape Coast Castle.

31. The chiefs undertook to give every assistance and co-operation in the collection of the tax, which was to be undertaken by officers appointed by the Governor. Any surplus revenue was to be devoted to public improvements in education, communications, and increased medical facilities. In 1853 the first Supreme Court Ordinance was passed, which established Courts under a Chief Justice. Jurisdiction was confined "within H.M. Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast," but in 1856 it was extended to the "Protected Territories" in all cases in which "H.M. might exercise powers and jurisdiction without the co-operation of any native Chief or authority".

32. The collection of the poll tax was resisted in 1854 and Christiansborg and Labadi were bombarded; for this and other reasons it was discontinued some ten years later. In 1858 Sir Benjamin Pine established municipal corporations for the first time in the country and on their institution the poll tax was abolished within the municipal areas, a house tax being substituted. These corporations were not a success, however, and the ordinance was repealed in 1861. The Poll Tax Ordinance was formally repealed in 1886.

33. The question of the abandonment of the Gold Coast again came to the fore in 1865-66. A Special Commissioner was sent out to examine the question on the spot and a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to consider his report and to make recommendations to Parliament. The eventual result was that the Gold Coast was reunited with Sierra Leone in 1866 under one Governor-in-Chief with a local Administrator responsible to him.

34. In order to facilitate administration an agreement was made with the Dutch in 1867 for a mutual exchange of forts and lodges and protectorates over the neighbouring tribes. It provided for the cession to the Dutch of all the British possessions west of the Sweet River together with the protectorates over Denkerah and Wassaw, in exchange for the Dutch possessions east of the Sweet River.

35. This agreement was negotiated, however, without consultation with the native tribes concerned, and in complete disregard of their interests and prejudices. In consequence, it aroused the strongest opposition on their part. The handing over of the Dutch forts to the British was carried out without any difficulty as it did not involve any interference with the interests of the inhabitants or expose them to the vengeance of the Ashantis as in the case of the transfer to the Dutch of the Fantis, Denkerah, and Wassaws. Opposition at once manifested itself at Komenda and resulted in the formation of the Fanti Confederation, which comprised, in addition to the Fantis and the Komendas, Assini, Wassaw, Denkerah,

Gomoa, Winneba, Mankesim, Abra, and Anamabo. The confederation was pledged to resist by force of arms the Dutch occupation of towns hitherto included in the British protectorate. The country remained in a state of almost continuous disturbance for several years and the ultimate result was that, by the Anglo-Dutch Convention signed in 1871, and ratified in 1872, the whole of the Dutch possessions were transferred to Great Britain. The whole of the coast from the Tano River in the west to the Volta in the east thus came under British sovereignty and control. The transfer was carried out without opposition, though a riot occurred at Elmina, shortly after the British assumed control. The main question outstanding, and one which caused much trouble subsequently, was the Ashanti claim to Elmina, based on the fact that the Dutch "note" had originally been given to the King of Denkera and after its capture by the Ashantis the Dutch continued the payment to them and even carried it on after the British captured the "note" from the Ashantis at the Battle of Dodowa.

36. After the Ashanti war of 1874 the Gold Coast and Lagos were created one Colony and were separated from the administration of Sierra Leone. The defeat of the Ashantis, due entirely to British efforts, led to the assumption of more and more authority over the protected tribes by the British and enabled the Government finally to abolish internal domestic slavery.

37. In 1886 the Gold Coast and Lagos were divided and since that date the Gold Coast has been a distinct Colony, its dependencies, Ashanti and the Northern Territories, being brought under its administration at a later date. A rebellion in the Volta River District took place in 1888 and Mr. Dalrymple, a District Commissioner, was murdered. Heavy punishment was inflicted on the tribes concerned.

RECENT HISTORY.

38. Since that date progress has been steady and the natives of the Colony are taking an increasingly active interest in public affairs. Energies, which formerly were dissipated in internecine quarrels and wars, are now directed towards the peaceful occupations of farming and trade. The extension and development of railways and roads, which has been one of the chief cares of the Government, has had no mean share in spreading the influence of civilization.

39. A modified form of municipal government has been set up in Accra, Cape Coast, and Sekondi, and although its introduction was resisted at first, owing to the African's objection to any form of direct taxation, the principles of local government are now obtaining acceptance.

40. The spread of education has been rapid of recent years and the African displays a great eagerness to learn ; this desire the Government is doing everything possible to satisfy.

41. The people are by no means insensible to the benefits of peaceful government, as was abundantly proved during the European war when the administration was carried on by a greatly reduced staff and chiefs and people vied with each other in subscribing to war funds and in doing all in their power to uphold the British cause. A few served with the Gold Coast Regiment during the campaigns in West and East Africa, but the fighting force was chiefly drawn from the Northern Territories.

42. The Gold Coast prides itself on being the first country in the Empire to capture enemy territory in the Great War, its regiment taking Togoland in August, 1914.

ASHANTI, EARLY HISTORY.

43. Nothing definite is known regarding the early history of the Ashantis, but there is no doubt that about the middle of the seventeenth century Ashanti had become a powerful confederacy and Kumasi is believed to have been built about 1665. The first mention of the Ashantis by Europeans on the coast concerns the Ashanti-Denkera war of 1699 or 1700, when the Denkeras and Akims were defeated by the Ashantis. By the end of the eighteenth century, Ashanti ruled a vast extent of country, *e.g.*, Nkoranza, Banda, Jaman, Wassaw, Sefwi, Denkera, Assin, Akim, Akwapim, Kwahu, etc.

THE ASHANTI WARS WITH THE BRITISH.

44. The first time the British came in contact with the Ashantis, was in 1806, when, during a war with the Fantis, the Ashantis penetrated to the coast. The Dutch surrendered Fort Kormantin to them and they attacked the British at Anamabo but were beaten off. The British Governor, Colonel Torrane, by surrendering certain fugitives, whom he had promised to protect, then made peace with the Ashanti King.

45. A second war between the Fantis and Ashantis took place in 1810, but Europeans were not involved ; and there was a third war in 1814-1815 which was settled by the efforts of the Governor of Cape Coast Castle. In 1817 the British sent a mission to Kumasi (James and Bowdich), and eventually a treaty was signed and Hutchinson remained as Resident at Kumasi.

46. In 1820 a fresh treaty was negotiated and signed by Dupuis, who had been sent out as Consul at Kumasi in 1819, but, at first, had not been allowed to leave Cape Coast. This treaty was repudiated by the Governor of the Colony and the Ashanti messengers were not allowed to proceed to Britain with Dupuis. When the Colony came under the Sierra Leone administration in 1822, Sir Charles MacCarthy, the Governor-in-Chief, visited the country and decided to take measures to crush the Ashantis. He went back to Sierra Leone, but returned in 1823, and at the Battle of Insamankow on the 21st January, 1824, the British forces were defeated by the Ashantis, and Sir Charles MacCarthy and eight other British officers were killed. In June, 1824, the Ashantis advanced to within five miles of Cape Coast Castle, but in 1825, they returned to Kumasi. They reinvaded the Protectorate in 1826, and were heavily defeated by the British and native allies on 7th August, 1826, at Dodowa. Eventually, after long negotiations and delays, Maclean succeeded in making peace on 27th April, 1831. It was arranged, as a guarantee of the terms being observed, that two Ashanti princes were to remain in British custody for a period of six years and a deposit of 600 oz. of gold was also made. The princes were sent to Britain to be educated and were present at Queen Victoria's coronation.

47. In 1853 an Ashanti army again invaded the Protectorate, but on preparations being made to resist, it was recalled to Kumasi without a shot being fired. In 1863 another war commenced, owing to the refusal of the Governor to surrender certain Ashanti fugitives. The Ashantis again invaded the Protectorate and defeated the allies at Essikuma and at Bobikuma and then returned to Kumasi. Preparations were then made for an invasion of Ashanti but the Imperial Government, after much hesitation, ordered them to be abandoned and the question of total withdrawal from the coast was once more raised.

48. In 1869 the Ashantis invaded the Krepi country and although they defeated the Krepis many times they could not subdue them. In June, however, they captured the Basel Missionaries, Ramseyer and his wife and infant son, and a merchant named Kuhne at Anum, and sent them to Kumasi. The French factor at Ho, M. Bonnat, was captured by another party and also sent to Kumasi. Many efforts made to obtain the release of these Europeans by negotiation were unsuccessful. On the Ashantis once again invading the Gold Coast in 1873 and camping at Efutun and Mampon, Sir Garnet Wolseley was appointed Civil Governor and Commander-in-Chief and arrived at Cape Coast on 2nd October, 1873. He sent an ultimatum to the King of Ashanti and the Ashanti Army began to retreat and reached Kumasi in December, after cutting its way through the bush in order to avoid forces which

had been sent to intercept it on the road. Wolseley invaded Ashanti in January, 1874, and the European prisoners were at once released, he nevertheless pushed on and defeated the Ashantis twice and reached Kumasi on 4th February, 1874. He burnt the town and marched out for the coast again two days after. A Treaty of Peace was finally signed on 15th March, 1874. The Ashantis now asked to be allowed to come under the Colonial Government but the Imperial Government would not extend the limits of the Protectorate. Ashanti soon recovered a large measure of its power and although frequent requests were made for a British Resident these were not acceded to.

49. British policy was reversed in 1890 and an offer of a Protectorate was made, but it was then refused by Prempeh, King of Ashanti. The question was pressed by the Government owing to the danger of the Ashantis falling under foreign influence. The Ashantis decided to appeal to the Secretary of State and sent an embassy to England which was not received. In 1896 another military expedition was despatched to Kumasi, which reached the capital without fighting and Prempeh and the Queen Mother made their submission. A demand for an indemnity was not met and Prempeh and the Queen Mother were consequently arrested and deported. Ashanti thus came under British protection and a Resident was appointed to Kumasi. The Golden Stool and much of the regalia were removed by the Ashantis and were not captured.

50. The country remained very unsettled after the deportation of the King and the people were by no means reconciled to British rule. On receipt of information of its supposed hiding place an unsuccessful search was made for the Golden Stool in 1900 by Captain Armitage. Governor Hodgson then determined to visit Kumasi and arrived there on the 25th March, 1900. At a meeting with the Kings and Chiefs he informed them that Prempeh would not be allowed to return and amongst other demands he called for the surrender of the Golden Stool and sent Captain Armitage to make a further search for it. In less than a week the Ashantis rose in arms and the Governor and the garrison were besieged in Kumasi. Owing to the shortage of food and ammunition it was eventually decided that the Governor and Lady Hodgson, escorted by part of the garrison, should endeavour to reach the coast. On 23rd June, 1900, the Governor's column left and reached the coast in safety on 10th July, 1900, after a successful march which was entirely due to the devotion of Captain Armitage and his officers and men. Captain Bishop held Kumasi, where he was eventually relieved on 15th July by Colonel Willcocks with an entirely native force. The Ashantis were finally defeated, the rebellion put down, and the country gradually pacified.

THE GOLDEN STOOL.

51. In 1921 the Golden Stool was discovered by some road menders in the Nkoranza district. Certain Ashantis, including two chiefs, one of whom was one of the guardians of the Stool, took it away and stripped it of its gold, which they began to sell. This was discovered and the chiefs were arrested. At the same time the Kumasi Chiefs were assembled by the Chief Commissioner (Mr. C. H. Harper, C.M.G., O.B.E.) and informed that the Government made no claim whatever to the Stool and the offenders were handed over to them for trial. The Stool remains in Ashanti custody and the wise action of Mr. Harper in the waiving of the British claim to it prevented a disturbance which would have seriously dislocated trade at a critical period in the history of local commerce and would probably have resulted in bloodshed.

52. That the action of the Government was understood and appreciated by the Ashantis is apparent from recent speeches made by the late Queen Mother of Mampon (the senior Queen Mother in Ashanti) and the Head Linguist on behalf of the Council of Kumasi Chiefs.

53. The former, in handing to Lady Guggisberg, C.B.E., for presentation to Princess Mary as a Wedding Gift from the Queen Mothers of Ashanti, an exact replica of her own silver stool, remarked :—

“ It may be that the King’s child Princess Mary has
 “ heard of the Golden Stool of Ashanti. That is the Stool
 “ which contains the soul of the Ashanti nation. All we
 “ women of Ashanti thank the Governor exceedingly
 “ because he has declared to us that the English will never
 “ again ask us to hand over that Stool. This stool we give
 “ gladly. It does not contain our soul, as our Golden Stool
 “ does, but it contains all the love of us Queen Mothers and
 “ of our women. The spirit of this love we have bound to
 “ the stool with silver fetters, just as we are accustomed to
 “ bind our own spirits to the base of our stools.”

54. The Head Linguist, speaking on behalf of the Chiefs, said :—

“ The Golden Stool is very great. It contains the soul
 “ of the nation. We honour it so much that if it had been
 “ tampered with by anyone, from outside, we would have
 “ risen in arms, and it would not have mattered to us if we
 “ all perished the same day. we tender our thanks.”

55. It may be hoped that the ill feeling aroused by the demand made twenty-two years ago for the surrender of the Golden Stool has now been dissipated.

56. Since 1900 the development of the country has been peaceful and steady and the Ashantis have, under the long and paternal administration of Sir Francis Fuller, 1904-1919, taken a great share in the cocoa trade.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES.

57. Like Ashanti, no reliable information is available regarding the early history of the Northern Territories, which, owing to various troubles with Mohammedan slave raiders and the close approach of French forces to British territory, were, in 1897, constituted a separate protectorate with a Commissioner-in-Charge. In 1898 the boundaries were delimited between France and Great Britain and in 1899 between Germany and Great Britain.

58. In 1902, the boundaries of the Colony, Ashanti, and the Northern Territories, were defined and Ashanti formally annexed to the British Crown. The laws of the Colony were at the same time applied to Ashanti and the Northern Territories with certain modifications.

TOGOLAND.

59. Part of the old German Colony of Togoland is now administered by the Gold Coast Government under the mandate allotted to Great Britain by the Peace Treaty, 1919, France being the mandatory power for the remaining portion. The area of the German Colony was about 36,500 square miles and the area of the British mandatory territory is 13,040 square miles. Togoland came into German possession by virtue of agreements with France and Great Britain of 1885, 1888, 1897, and 1899, respectively. The agreement of 1888 followed on the inclusion of Krepi and other districts East of the Volta within the British protectorate and the establishment of the German protectorate over parts of Togoland in 1885. It provided for a neutral zone in which both powers agreed not to obtain exclusive influence but retained the right to make treaties with any of its Chiefs relating to territory outside the zone. Until the German annexation of the Avoteme, Tavi, and Kevi countries in 1886, followed by the first agreement with Great Britain, many of the tribes on the coast and its immediate hinterland and those adjoining the Northern Territories considered themselves under British suzerainty and the following incident, related by Captain E. T. Mansfield, Record Officer in Togoland, is of more than passing interest :—

“ During an inspection of the Division in 1918, shortly before reaching the late Bremen Mission station at Amedrofo, I was met by the Head Chief's linguist and a messenger, the latter bearing a “ Union Jack ”.

“ Knowing that when the Germans took over Togoland
“ they had issued an order calling on the Chiefs to hand
“ in their “ Union Jacks ” and accept the German Flag
“ I decided to make enquiries and at a subsequent meeting
“ of Chiefs the Head Chief, on my invitation, related the
‘ history of this particular “ Jack ” as follows :—

“ Many years ago a Commissioner, William, presented us
“ with a Union Jack. Immediately the Germans occupied
“ Togoland, a Commissioner, named Bauman, issued an
“ order that all Chiefs in possession of the Union Jack must
“ hand them in and accept the German Flag. Many Chiefs
“ at once obeyed the order. My Grandfather and his Elders
“ decided to accept the German Flag, but not to give up
“ their old Union Jack, but bury it, with a hope that at
“ some future date they would be able to fly it once again.
“ So, for safe-keeping, it was folded up and placed in an
“ earthenware pot and buried. The flag before you is that
“ Union Jack and I can produce the actual pot it was buried
“ in. To-day our hope has been gratified and we are once
“ again British ”.

60. On the outbreak of War with Germany, Togoland was invaded by the Gold Coast Regiment, which at once captured Lome, and later, on 26th August, 1914, the Colony was surrendered to a combined British and French force. An agreement was made provisionally partitioning Togoland into French and British spheres which were administered by officers seconded from the Gold Coast and Dahomey respectively. The British sphere on the West included Lome, the Misahohe line, and the grater portion of the Atakpame line, the division following, roughly, an imaginary line running North and South. This division was considerably modified at the Paris Peace Conference, 1919, and France as mandatory power became responsible for Lome, the whole of the Coast line, and part of the interior ; and Britain for the Kete-Krachi, Yendi, and Ho districts.

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL.

1. The prosperity of the country during the year 1925-1926 was indicated by the marked increase of both imports and exports. The total volume of external trade was valued at £20,672,842, the value of exports exceeding that of imports by more than £1,000,000. This satisfactory state of affairs is also reflected in the revenue of £4,116,442, the highest on record in the history of the Gold Coast, which exceeded recurrent and extraordinary expenditure by £503,331. Although Cocoa, the staple product of the country, is mainly responsible for these results, the export trade is being gradually enlarged by the steady increase of other agricultural and mineral products.

2. The activities of Government in the sphere of Education are dealt with in the special section devoted to the subject. The main features of the year were the introduction of an Ordinance for the development and assistance of Education and the progress made in the construction of Achimota College.

3. With regard to public health there were no serious epidemics of disease with the exception of the outbreak of small pox in the Northern Territories and the northern parts of Ashanti.

4. A conference of the medical and sanitary authorities of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia was held at Accra in December, 1925. One of the main conclusions of the conference was the necessity for training a large staff of skilled African workers in order to bring into general operation modern methods of preventing disease and improving health.

5. An infant welfare clinic and hospital have recently been established at Accra where mothers and infants are attending in increasing numbers.

6. The construction of the Central Province Railway was rapidly advanced and at Takoradi Harbour the main breakwater reached the length of approximately 5,100 feet and the lee breakwater 1,480 feet. The West Lighter Wharf reached a length of 480 feet. It is estimated that the harbour will be completed before the 31st December, 1928.

7. An important change in the Constitution involving a measure of Elective Representation was approved by Order of the King in Council on the 8th April, 1925. The Order provides for the re-constitution of the Legislative Council. The old Council was constituted in 1916 and consisted at the time of its demise of eleven official and nine unofficial members, the latter being nominated by the Governor. The new Council consists of fifteen official and fourteen unofficial members. Of the unofficial members nine will be Africans and five Europeans. With regard to the African members six will be Head Chiefs elected by Provincial Councils under a system of proportional representation and three will be

Municipal Members, one each for the Municipalities of Accra, Sekondi, and Cape Coast. The five European Unofficial Members will consist of one representative elected by the firms which for the time being are members of a recognised Chamber of Commerce in the Colony, a representative of the Mining industry in the Colony, and three unofficial members nominated and appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation or disallowance by His Majesty signified through the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

8. The outstanding event of the year was the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the Gold Coast. His Royal Highness landed at the Takoradi Harbour Works on the 9th April and re-embarked in H.M.S. Repulse at Accra on the 14th April after a successful tour of the country which included a visit to Kumasi. Meetings of chief were held at Sekondi, Kumasi and Accra ; and at Achimota, near Accra, His Royal Highness laid the foundation stone of the Prince of Wales College and School.

9. The Gold Coast also had the honour of a visit from Her Highness the Princess Marie Louise who stayed from the 10th May to the 20th June. Her Highness accompanied the Governor and Lady Guggisberg on a tour of the Northern Territories.

10. The Government of the Colony was administered by the Governor and Commander-in-Chief Brigadier-General Sir Frederick Gordon Guggisberg, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., from the 1st April to the 5th July, 1925, and during his absence on leave by Mr. John Maxwell, C.M.G., Chief Commissioner of Ashanti from the 6th July to the 1st September, 1925, and by Sir James Crawford Maxwell, K.B.E., C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, from the 2nd September to the 11th November, 1925. On the 12th November 1925, the Governor resumed the administration of the Government until the end of the financial year.

11. The honour of Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Civil Division, was conferred by His Majesty the King upon Dr. James Crawford Maxwell, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

12. The following appointments were made during the financial year :—

Mr. Sydney Spencer Sawrey-Cookson was appointed Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court vice Mr. Justice L. C. Dalton transferred to Ceylon.

Mr. E. Gardiner-Smith, Circuit Judge, was appointed Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court vice Mr. Justice E. R. Logan.

Mr. Charles Carnegie Brown was promoted to be Circuit Judge.

13. The total European Official Establishment of the Colony and its Dependencies during the financial year was 994.

CHAPTER II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

1. The true revenue for the year amounted to £4,116,442 being the highest on record in the history of the Colony. In addition to this true Revenue the sum of £1,755,114 was repaid to surplus balances out of the proceeds of the loan floated during the year and credited as extraordinary Revenue—The grand total was thus £5,871,556.

2. The following table affords a more detailed comparison between 1924-25 and 1925-26 :—

Head of Revenue.	1924-25.	1925-26.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs ..	2,282,947	2,438,838	155,891	—
2. Light Dues ..	3,997	4,685	688	—
3. Licences ..	89,727	114,585	24,858	—
4. Fees of Court, etc.	139,302	166,276	26,974	—
5. Railways ..	1,073,260	1,106,363	33,103	—
6. Posts and Telegraphs ..	76,177	85,732	9,555	—
7. Rent of Govt. Lands ..	10,802	9,032	—	1,770
8. Interest ..	25,640	29,790	4,150	—
9. Miscellaneous ..	139,706	152,904	13,198	—
10. Land Sales ..	13	16	3	—
Railway Renewals Fund ..	129,614	8,221	—	121,393
Revenue Extra- ordinary ..	—	1,755,114	1,755,114	—
£	3,971,185	5,871,556	2,023,534	123,163

Net Increase £1,900,371 ; net Increase of true Revenue £145,257

3. Customs and Railway Receipts continue to be the chief sources of Revenue, and the following table shows how large a proportion of the whole Revenue is due to these sources :—

Customs.			Railways.		Other Sources.	
Year.	Receipts.	Percentage to total revenue.	Receipts.	Percentage to total revenue.	Receipts.	Percentage to total revenue.
	£		£		£	
1915 ..	828,015	57	445,898	30	182,217	13
1916 ..	1,132,000	62	505,665	27	198,324	11
1917 ..	893,785	55	494,338	30	236,001	15
1918 ..	610,973	48	453,250	35	225,451	17
1919 ..	1,672,423	64	663,976	26	264,960	10
1920 ..	2,281,820	61	735,837	20	704,115	19
1921-22 ..	1,777,350	59	796,343	26	442,827	15
1922-23 ..	2,035,359	60	892,115	27	429,722	13
1923-24 ..	2,154,707	58	1,011,744	27	576,333	15
1924-25 ..	2,282,947	58	1,073,260	27	614,980	15
1925-26 ..	2,438,838	59	1,106,363	27	*571,241	14

*Exclusive of Revenue Extraordinary £1,755,114.

Expenditure.

4. The expenditure for the year was £4,255,126 and is therefore more than that for 1924-25 by £426,793, excluding expenditure on Loan Works.

5. The following table gives a comparison of the expenditure for the years 1924-25 and 1925-26 :—

Head of Expenditure.	1924-25.	1925-26.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. The Governor ..	12,894	17,074	4,180	—
2. Supreme Court ..	24,306	26,226	1,920	—
3. Law Officers ..	7,102	6,880	—	222
4. Colonial Secretary's Office and Legisla- ture	24,842	26,289	1,447	—
5. Printing Office ..	25,763	27,060	1,297	—
6. Native Affairs ..	3,074	2,979	—	95
7. Political Administra- tion	130,941	134,444	3,503	—
8. Ashanti and Northern Territories Judi- ciary	4,497	5,052	555	—
9. Treasury	29,285	31,763	2,478	—
10. Audit Department ..	11,758	12,305	547	—
11. Customs	59,463	61,258	1,795	—
12. Customs Preventive Service	28,509	25,200	—	3,309
13. Marine	5,980	6,500	520	—
14. Railways	551,733	568,012	16,279	—
Railway Renewals Fund	129,614	8,221	—	121,393
15. Posts and Telegraphs	115,261	119,125	3,864	—
16. Medical Department	125,923	143,291	17,368	—
17. Sanitation	131,227	125,559	—	5,668
18. Medical Research ..	5,872	8,634	2,762	—
19. Veterinary	9,136	9,335	199	—
20. Education	112,122	120,206	8,084	—
20a. Achimota College ..	4,018	14,349	10,331	—
21. Agriculture	45,189	47,902	2,713	—
22. Forestry	20,622	22,047	1,425	—
23. Mines	3,632	3,636	4	—
24. Geological Survey ..	9,967	9,025	—	942
25. Gold Coast Regiment (W.A.F.F.) ..	89,736	90,537	801	—
26. Volunteers	977	1,019	42	—
27. Police	132,772	127,511	—	5,261

Head of Expenditure.	1924-25.	1925-26.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
28. Prisons	47,244	46,454	—	790
29. Public Cemeteries ..	3,170	3,651	481	—
30. Survey Department	45,668	47,129	1,461	—
31. Northern Territories Constabulary ..	23,026	23,716	690	—
32. Motor Transport Department ..	31,976	23,201	—	8,775
33. Miscellaneous Service	95,608	224,038	128,430	—
34. Pensions and Gratuities... ..	112,253	112,746	493	—
35. Public Debt Charges	46,545	537,075	120,433	—
36. Public Works Dept.	171,364	155,501	—	16,093
37. Public Works Annual- ly Recurrent ..	212,199	246,380	34,181	—
38. Public Works Extra- ordinary	305,540	324,201	18,661	—
39. Railways—Capital Improvements ..	45,552	66,056	20,504	—
40. Posts and Telegraphs Extraordinary ..	3,221	821	—	2,400
41. Special Departmental Expenditure ..	466,722	642,015	175,293	—
42. Expenditure on Loan Works	804,300	—	—	804,300
£	4,632,633	4,255,126	591,741	909,248

6. The yearly revenue and expenditure for the period 1917 to 1925-1926 is shown below :—

Year.					Revenue.	Expenditure.
					£	£
1917	..	..	..	..	1,624,124	1,424,270
1918	..	..	..	..	1,298,674	1,369,486
1919	..	..	..	..	2,601,360	1,781,170
1920	..	..	..	..	3,721,772	2,856,347
1921-22	..	..	..	..	3,016,520	3,285,290
1922-23	..	..	..	..	3,357,196	2,934,994
1923-24	..	..	..	..	3,742,834	4,105,938 (1)
1924-25	..	..	..	..	3,971,187	4,632,633 (2)
1925-26	..	..	..	..	5,871,556 (3)	4,255,126

Assets and Liabilities.

7. The excess of Assets over Liabilities shown in the Balance Sheet on 1st April, 1925, was £877,237. In addition to this amount advances aggregating £1,755,114 had been made from Surplus Balances for the purpose of carrying on Loan Works pending the issue of the new loan. In accordance with Colonial Regulations these advances were shown as Expenditure and not as an Asset. They were, however, repaid during the year under review, and taking them into account the excess of Assets at 1st April, 1925, was £2,632,351. The excess of Assets over Liabilities on 31st March, 1926, was £2,493,668, thus showing a decrease of £138,683. The sum of £569,338 is standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund.

8. On the 1st April, 1925, the amount of the Public Debt was £7,259,118 and at 31st March, 1926, it stood at £11,791,000. A loan of £4,628,000 was raised during the year, but the whole balance of the loan from the Imperial Exchequer, viz., £96,118, was paid off.

9. The Sinking Fund for the amortization of the funded portion of the Public Debt was increased during the year by £92,197, made up of £56,630 from general revenue and £35,567 from interest on investments. The amount standing to the credit of the fund on the 31st March, 1926, was £756,941.

(1) Includes special expenditure out of surplus balance of £257,179, and advances to loan works from the same source of £950,814.

(2) Includes special expenditure out of surplus balance of £466,722, and advances to loan works from the same source of £804,300.

(3) Includes £1,755,114, refunded out of Loan Funds,

10. Excluding the investments on account of the Sinking Fund, the investments held by Government on the 31st March, 1926, amounted to £731,580.

11. £5,000, an amount which is sufficient to cover the depreciation of old investments (at pre-war rates of interest) on account of the Savings Bank, stands to the credit of the Investments Depreciation Account.

Stamps.

12. There were no stamps in the custody of the Vault Committee at 31st March, 1926.

Currency.

13. At 31st March the following West African Currency was in circulation or, at any rate, issued in the Colony and not returned to Currency Board Stocks in the Colony viz :—

Currency Notes (almost entirely			
20s. and 10s. Notes)			
	..	£1,339,077	
Alloy Coin	.. ..	3,608,037	
Nickel Coin	.. ..	42,483	
			<hr/>
Total	..	£4,989,597	

This figure is £52,372 less than that for 31st March, 1925.

14. In addition to the above there is a certain amount of silver coin in circulation, although it is being withdrawn as it comes into the Banks and exported to England by the Currency Board for sale as bullion. During the year such exports amounted to £89,200.

Banking.

15. The usual Government accounts at various branches of the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank were maintained during the year.

16. The Bank of British West Africa, which commenced business in Accra, on the 1st January, 1897, has since opened branches at Axim, Sekondi, Tarkwa, Kumasi, Cape Coast, Saltpond, Winneba, Bekwai, Koforidua, Nsawam, and Dunkwa and agencies at Obuasi, Prestea, and Half-Assini.

17. The Colonial Bank established in Accra on the 24th February, 1917, has now branches at Sekondi, Winneba, Kumasi Koforidua, and Nsawam.

18. A Government Savings Bank conducted by the Treasury was established in 1888. The business was transferred to the Post Office in 1905, and is rapidly increasing. The amount standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1925, was £59,684, an increase of £5,956 over last year.

19. Penny Banks in connection with the Post Office have also been established in the Principal Government Schools.

CHAPTER III. TRADE AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.**(1st January to 31st December, 1925).****(1) TRADE.**

1. The Principal exports are Cocoa, Manganese, Gold, Kola, Mahogany, Palm Kernels and Oil, and Diamonds.

2. During the period under review—1st January to 31st December, 1925,—there was a marked increase in the external maritime trade of the Gold Coast. Imports amounted to 309,564 tons and Exports to 616,718 tons, a record in the history of the country.

3. The Exports of Cocoa, on which mainly depends the purchasing power of the people, were again responsible for the increase in general trade, although the tonnage exported, 218,151, was 5,178 less than in 1924.

4. 338,657 tons of Manganese were exported. In 1916, when the first shipments were made, 4,016 tons were exported.

Customs Revenue.

5. Compared with the preceding year specific duties accounted for the largest increase in revenue. The proceeds from this head amounted to £1,600,996, being £335,097 in excess of the 1924 receipts from the same source.

6. The Revenue derived from spirituous liquors, including Wines and Malts, amounted to £1,064,390 and represented 42.4 per cent. of the total import and export duties of Customs.

7. Whilst there was a falling off in the amount of duty collected on Cocoa to the extent of £113,318, the revenue was more than counter-balanced partly by the increase under spirituous liquors and partly by an increase in the duties collected on ad-valorem rated articles of which Cotton goods supplied the chief increase.

Imports.

8. The value of the imports for the year amounted to £9,782,619, being a net increase of £1,467,385 compared with the 1924 value of imported articles.

9. Articles subject to ad valorem duty increased in value by £488,449. This increase occurred mainly in cotton goods and to some extent in silk goods, apparel and woollen goods. The only articles that showed appreciable decreases under this head were medicines and drugs (patent and proprietary) and perfumery.

10. The Cotton, as well as other "soft goods" trade in 1925 might be said to have been normal, as the duty-paid stocks held by merchants were, as a rule, not so large as in the previous year, and, as the quantity in bond was small, importations for home consumption were regular to meet a steady demand. Competition in cotton goods during the past year was keen and competitive prices led to increased sales.

11. The decrease in the value of dutiable medicines and drugs imported was replaced by an almost equal import value of medicines and drugs included in the British Pharmacopœia and which were not subject to duty on importation. It would appear as if the public have forsaken, in some degree, the use of patent and proprietary medicines and have taken to a large extent to the use of remedies approved of by the medical profession. All preparations containing spirits, and whose primary object is to perfume, have, since the introduction of the new Customs Tariff Ordinance on 1st November, 1924, been posted in the Statistics under the head "Spirits", and the value of the imports under the head "Perfumery" have shrunk accordingly.

12. Under goods subject to Specific Duty large increases are shown in the importation of gin, motor spirits, canned meats, beads, cordage and twine, beer and ale, cigarettes, rice and fish dried, salted or pickled.

13. The increase in the imports of spirituous liquors was a clear indication that the population of the Gold Coast had a considerable amount of surplus wealth for disbursement during the year. Spirits are heavily taxed, and in the case of gin, which is the chief spirit imported, the customs duty is approximately 375 per centum greater than the landed cost of the article. The natives of the Gold Coast are probably the wealthiest of all the indigenous peoples of Africa, and while the importation of alcohol has been reviving during the last few years owing to the removal of difficulties of supply created by the war, the importation per head of the estimated population was, in 1925, scarcely one-third of the spirit importation in the year 1913.

14. The increased imports of canned meats, fish (salted or pickled) and rice were the direct result of the employment of a large amount of labour on the building of the Prince of Wales College, the construction of Takoradi Harbour and the Central Province Railway.

15. The value of imports of articles for commercial use, which are exempt from duty, was greater by £216,459 in 1925 than similar goods imported in 1924, whilst the imports of Government Stores showed a decrease of £73,795 under the former year.

16. As regards free articles, increases occurred in Motor cars and Lorries, Railway Rolling Stock, Corrugated Iron sheets, Machinery for mining purposes, ships and boats (other than mechanically propelled) and medicines and drugs (B.P.)

17. With the increasing shipment of Manganese more rolling stock was imported by the Railway Department in order to cope with the haulage of the ore from Insuta to Sekondi. The increased imports of mining machinery were due in large measure to the development of the diamond and manganese industries. The increase in the importation of ships and boats was accounted for by larger imports of surf boats and lighters which were required to deal with the greater tonnage of imports and exports. The explanation of the increase in the imports of medicines and drugs in the British Pharmacopoeia has already been dealt with.

Exports.

18. The total value of the exports for the year ended 31st December, 1925, amounted to £10,890,223, being £975,286 or 9.38% in value greater than the exports for 1924.

19. The value of the exports of domestic produce and manufactures, excluding bullion, was in excess of that for the previous year by £1,071,093 and this was mainly attributable to the large shipments of manganese ore.

20. The export of raw cocoa, including exports overland, amounted to 218,151 tons and represented a value of £8,222,263. These figures show that while there was a decrease in quantity compared with 1924 of 5,178 tons which is attributed to the partial failure of the middle crop, there was an increase in value of £972,365.

21. The countries to which the exports of cocoa were consigned were as follows :—

Country of Destination.	Quantity Tons.	Value £
United States of America	54,292	2,049,534
United Kingdom	53,923	2,056,841
Germany	44,844	1,701,123
Holland	36,545	1,392,570
France	18,651	714,759
Other Countries	9,896	307,436
Total	218,151	8,222,263

22. The Gold Coast still remains the chief cocoa-producing country in the world, the exports in 1925 approximating fifty per cent. of the world's total production. Brazil, which is the second producing country in the world, only produced about one-third of the Gold Coast output. The United States of America is the chief cocoa consuming country, the annual consumption in that country being about 190,000 tons at the present time.

23. The following table shows the principal other articles which showed increases or decreases as compared with similar exports in 1924 :—

Articles.	Quantities.		Values.		Increase or Decrease.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.	Quantity.	Value.
Diamonds ..	66,946	77,313	£ 85,361	£ 98,760	+10,367	+13,399
Manganese Ore ..	233,402	338,657	526,400	680,944	+105,255	+154,544
Rubber ..	272,182	1,097,832	8,917	33,946	+825,650	+25,029
Copra ..	1,163	1,324	26,676	30,704	+161	+4,028
Palm Oil ..	1,350	1,423	35,755	43,624	+73	+7,869
Fibre O.K. (Sisal hemp)	87	176	3,403	6,995	+89	+3,592
Bullion—Raw Gold ..	232,570	218,122	875,008	840,525	-14,448	-34,483
Kola Nuts ..	17,411,694	13,656,162	401,398	282,773	-3,755,532	-118,625
Ivory ..	6,170	3,891	1,918	1,189	-2,279	-729
Palm Kernels ..	6,592	6,569	110,632	115,257	-23	+4,625
Mahogany ..	2,016,688	2,016,755	257,169	256,634	+67	-535
Cotton Lint ..	5,982	4,416	199	185	-1,566	-14

24. The large increase in the exports of manganese was the result of the employment of a larger staff and improved machinery at the mine at Insuta, as well as improved railway facilities for transporting the ore to the port of shipment. The Gold Coast now supersedes Brazil as a producer of manganese, and comes next to British India which, in 1921, produced about 680,000 tons. The increased output of rubber was due to the advance in price of that commodity in the world's markets. For a number of years the collection of rubber in this Colony was not a remunerative proposition.

25. The Sisal Hemp Industry, which was started by the Government some years ago, has now passed beyond the experimental stage. The exports in 1925, amounted to 176 tons—valued at £6,995. The area planted with fibre covers 1,000 acres. The machinery erected at the plantation could easily deal with six times that acreage.

26. Owing to the shortage of labour and the fact that one mine ceased to produce during the year, the exports of raw gold were 14,448 ozs. less in 1925 than in the previous year.

27. There was a considerable decrease in the exports of Kola Nuts. The exports by sea in 1924 were 17,411,694 lbs. and in 1925 they were 13,656,162 lbs., or 3,755,532 lbs. less. The Kola crop was poor owing to the heavy and protracted rainy season, and the exports by sea were restricted at certain periods of the year owing to irregular shipping facilities to Nigeria while Lagos was in quarantine. Considerable quantities of Gold Coast kola nuts were exported overland to Nigeria, but no record is obtainable of the quantities so exported.

Direction of Trade.

28. The import trade with all parts of the British Empire represented 67.75 per cent. of the total import trade and was less by 0.94 per cent. than similar trade for the year, 1924. The share of the import trade appropriated by the United Kingdom was 65.28 per cent. of the total, being practically the same proportion as in the former year. The United States of America, France and Holland increased their percentages of import trade with the Colony, Holland having the largest increase. The import trade from the Netherlands was 8.48 per cent. of the whole as against 7.17 per cent. in 1924. Holland sent increased supplies of cotton goods, rice and gin. Imports from Germany largely consisted of Gunpowder, Beer Cutlery, Matchets, Sewing Machines, Hardware, Musical Instruments and Perfumery. The principal imports from France were Aerated and Mineral Waters, Perfumed Spirits and Wine. The main articles imported from the United States of America were Motor Vehicles and parts thereof, Flour, Pickled Beef and Pork, Mineral Oil, Sugar Tobacco and Lumber.

29. Of the domestic exports the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany and Holland took the bulk of the Cocoa crop (see table in paragraph 21). The Gold bullion exported was all shipped to the United Kingdom. The United States of America received most of the Mahogany, and Nigeria took nearly all the kola nuts. Manganese ore was chiefly shipped to Norway, the United States of America, Canada and France.

(ii) LAND.

1. The fundamental axiom adopted by Government in framing its policy as regards land can be somewhat widely formulated in the statement that all the land in the Colony belongs, or did originally belong, to the native and that all land has an owner. In practice, however, it sometimes is impossible to determine, without lengthy and costly litigation who the owner of a particular piece of land may be.

2. The native idea of land tenure, based on communal ownership, is gradually giving way, especially in the large towns, to the idea of individual ownership. An account of the native system and the various divisions recognised by native law and custom will be found on pages 275 to 279 of the "Gold Coast Handbook".

3. When land is required by Europeans the usual procedure is to acquire it in accordance with English Conveyancing Practice either (a) by conveyance or lease and registration thereof or (b) by proceeding under the Concessions Ordinance (Cap. 87.). Procedure under the latter is compulsory in certain cases.

4. Broadly speaking, procedure under (a) is adopted where land, situated in a town or village, is required for building, residential or commercial purposes and where there is no intention of acquiring rights to develop the natural products of the soil or land. Where, however, it is desired to acquire land for mining, agricultural or arboricultural purposes, procedure under the Concessions Ordinance is necessary.

5. Government has powers to acquire compulsorily land required for public purposes, compensation being paid in such cases.

6. In acquiring land by lease or conveyance the chief difficulty, particularly in undeveloped portions within a town, is to find out the owner, and cases have occurred where firms or individuals, after having leased or purchased a plot and paid for it, have had to pay a second and third time, as other successive claimants to ownership have come forward and asserted their rights. The existing system of registration of documents is not compulsory but the adoption of it is always a wise precaution. Registration does not cure any defect in the instrument or confer upon it any validity that it would not otherwise have, but its effect is to give it priority from the date of registration as against other instruments affecting the same land.

7. The Registry of Deeds is attached at present to the Supreme Court, but, will, in the near future, be taken over by the Lands Branch of the Survey Department and new buildings are being erected for this purpose.

8. No change in the existing system of registration is contemplated, but it is hoped, eventually, to compile key maps, showing, whenever possible, exactly where the land referred to in each document is situated, so that transactions regarding any particular parcel of land can be more easily traced in the books.

9. The Lands Branch of the Survey Department has already compiled useful key maps and indexes of all concessions so that full details of any particular concession can readily be obtained without laborious search.

10. The following table shews the number of concessions at present valid and subsisting in the Colony and the area of land comprised in same —

Concessions valid but not being worked.

Number	Description.	Area in sq. miles.
130.	Mining and Agricultural.	607.

Agricultural Concessions being worked.

Number.	Area in sq. miles.
72.	870.

Mining Concessions being worked.

Number.	Area in sq. miles.
219	884.

Total for all Concessions.

Number.	Area in sq. miles.
421	2,361

11. Owing to the difficulty of keeping records up to date and the constant changes, due to some concessions lapsing under Section 9A Cap 87 and others being taken up, the above figures should be taken as approximate only.

12. The value of land in Accra varies from about £100 per acre for building land in the suburbs to about £1,500 per acre in the business parts of the town. Undeveloped land is worth about £6 per acre. In other towns these values would probably be considerably less. Agricultural land in the Colony is worth about £2 to £2 10s. od. per acre, while land in villages may be taken to average about £10 per acre.

(iii). AGRICULTURE.

1. The Gold Coast produces about one-half of the world's supply of cocoa and the first point in the Government agricultural policy is the protection, improvement and development of this product. An Ordinance has been passed to facilitate this object and the necessary practical measures are being carried out by special inspectors.

2. Government also takes special steps to develop the following agricultural products of export value : Copra, Sisal, Palm Kernels and Oil, Rice, Cotton. (For statistics of export see paragraph 23 under Trade).

Cotton.

3. Despite the slight decrease in the price of cotton, cotton growing is a thriving industry in the British Mandated territory of Togoland. About 95% of the cotton exported is grown in that territory.

A definite scheme for the establishment of cotton growing on an export scale in the Northern Territories has been drawn up by Government.

Copra.

4. Increasing attention is being taken in the cultivation of coconuts in the Central and Western Provinces. The Eastern Province, however, is still the only one exporting copra, the industry being confined to the areas around Keta and Ada. The export figures give little idea of the extent of the industry, as a large number of nuts are sold in the local markets and taken inland for food purposes.

5. Owing to the increase in the price of this product the exports show an increase of four times the amount exported during the previous year.

SISAL.

6. 654 acres were harvested of which 322 acres were cut for the second time.

The yield of fibre per acre from first cuttings averaged 12.4 cwts and from second cuttings 6.9 cwts.

285½ tons of fibre were produced and divided up as follows :—

Grade I.	247½ tons.
Grade II.	24 "
Tow	14 "

(iv). VETERINARY.

1. The Headquarters of the Veterinary Department are at Tamale in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast.

2. The Department has an establishment of 5 Veterinary Officers, 1 Inspector of Livestock and 5 African Veterinary Assistants.

3. There is a Veterinary School also at Tamale. The Principal Veterinary Officer and one Veterinary Officer are the lecturers. The course for qualifying as a Graduate is four years. When qualified, graduates are employed by the Government.

4. The functions of the Veterinary Department are:—

- (a) To guard the indigenous stock and imported livestock caravans from contagious and infectious disease.
- (b) To suppress any such outbreaks when they occur.
- (c) To instruct the stockowners in practical Zootechny.
- (d) To improve the indigenous breeds of livestock.
- (e) Treatment of sick domestic animals.
- (f) Research work in connection with animal diseases and feeding of livestock.
- (g) Breeding experiments.
- (h) To collect the Import tax on livestock.

Animal Diseases.

Cattle.

5. One large outbreak of cattle plague and several small isolated ones occurred in the North-Eastern Veterinary Section. 234 head were vaccinated against this disease and 4,196 were passively immunised.

6. There were 11 outbreaks of Contagious Pleuro-Pneumonia, 104 animals being slaughtered as affected.

Sheep.

7. Wire worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) disease causes many casualties annually; foot rot also accounts for a certain number of fatalities and much loss of flesh and condition generally.

Horses.

8. The Tartar Emetic treatment of trypanosomiasis continues to yield good results. Epizootic lymphangitis has decreased this year.

Dogs.

9. Many cases of mange and distemper and a few cases of dumb rabies have appeared.

Poultry.

10. Fowl cholera, roup and chicken pox are the chief causes of death.

Veterinary Dispensaries.

11. There are four Veterinary Dispensaries. 218 animals were treated, of these, 200 were cured, 5 died, 3 were destroyed and 10 remained under treatment at the close of the year.

Livestock Census.

12. The livestock census of the country is approximately :—

Horses.	Asses.	Cattle.	Sheep & Goats.	Pigs.
3,200	9,400	90,000	320,000	10,000

Livestock Trade and its products.

13. The cattle trade is mainly in the hands of natives, but a number of Frenchmen and Syrians also participate. There are five Quarantine Stations on the frontier for imported livestock. These are situated on the main caravan routes. The period of quarantine for cattle is nine days and for other stock one day. Comparative statistics for the last three years of stock passing through the Quarantine Stations are :—

	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26
Cattle	45,271	29,396	43,405
Sheep and Goats	38,398	40,361	57,302
Donkeys	8,314	5,042	13,479
Horses	340	211	340

14. An import tax of 5/- per horse, 4/- per cattle beast and 6d. per sheep or goat will be levied as from April 1st, 1926. The exact amount of meat sold in the different markets is unknown. The demand for meat is greater than the supply. It can safely be said that 6,000,000 lbs. of beef, 2,350,000 lbs of mutton and goat flesh, 14,000 lbs of pork and 600,000 of poultry flesh are consumed annually.

Zootechny.

15. A Short-horn and a Hereford bull are stationed in Tamale and have now been five years in the Gold Coast. There are five half-bred Hereford and 26 half-bred Short-horn cattle in the country.

16. A considerable number of English poultry were bred and many were issued to different areas for breeding.

17. Pig breeding has been introduced into the Kusasi and Northern Mamprusi areas of the Northern Territories. 974 bull calves and bulls unlikely to make good stud animals have been castrated by Officers of the Department.

Bullock and Donkey Transport.

18. Bullock transport is employed at Tamale, Lawra, Wa and Yendi on conservancy work and carting. Donkey transport is working at Tamale and Yendi for water carrying and at Gambaga in carrying stones for road work.

Livestock Show.

19. A livestock show was held at Wa, Northern Territories, and was most successful.

(v) FORESTRY.

1. With the view of preventing wholesale destruction of timber and of preserving the humidity of the soil in the cocoa-growing and other productive areas Government is endeavouring to establish forest reserves. An endeavour to induce Chiefs to carry out reservation schemes by means of bye laws has met with little success and the introduction of a special Forestry Ordinance is under consideration.

(vi) MINES.

1. The exports of Gold, Manganese and Diamonds are given in paragraph 23 under Trade in Chapter III.

2. Whilst the further expansion of the gold mining industry cannot be expected until more labour is available, the upward tendency of the manganese and diamond industries can be confidently expected to continue.

Gold.

3. The Mines producing on the banket reef are Tarkwa, Abbontiakoon, Abosso, and Adja Beppo. The introduction of wet hammer machine drills into these mines, it is hoped, will help to solve the labour difficulties. The following mines are working on quartz reefs in the Colony :—Prestea, Akoko, and Simpa Reefs.

4. Prestea Mine was taken over by the Gold Coast Explorers ; Akoko has recommenced crushing, and Simpa has temporarily closed down pending consideration of the future policy of the Company.

Akim, Limited are commencing operations in the town of Kibi.

The old Effuenta Mines Company are investigating an auriferous belt situated on the borders of Eastern and Western Akim. The results so far are very encouraging.

In Ashanti, the Ashanti Goldfields Company still maintain their position as the premier mine on the Coast. A complete return to the earlier roasting process has been made with the result that extraction has improved.

Experiments are being made with pulverised fuel in connection with roasting and boiler firing.

At Konongo, the Lyndhurst Deep Levels Limited have erected their Nissen mill and have commenced crushing. Alluvial Gold to the amount of 415.5 ounces was obtained from the Offin River and Akim District by dredging and hydraulicking. The Atta Gold Company Limited have taken over the interests of the Akim Limited at Pusupusu.

Manganese Company.

5. The African Manganese Company have now started to run their new washing plant which is capable of treating 1,800 tons of ore daily. On completion of Takoradi Harbour the output of this Company is expected to increase further.

Diamonds.

6. The African Selection Trust are still further developing their Akwatia concessions and a greater output of Diamonds is confidently predicted. During the year the West African Diamond Syndicate have opened up their concession at Kokotentin and have started their plant. No stones of any size have been found, but both these Companies have no difficulty in disposing of their diamonds.

Labour.

7. Europeans to the number of 209 were employed on surface work and 57 underground. The number of natives employed on surface work was 9,178 and underground 4,049. These figures show a decrease of 20 Europeans and an increase of 131 natives.

During the year 81 recruits were obtained from the Northern Territories.

To ease the labour situation on the banket reef attempts were made to obtain labour from Nigeria, but without success.

Prospecting Licences and Mining Licences.

8. Twelve Prospecting Licences and seven Mining Licences were issued in the Colony during the year, whilst in Ashanti six Prospecting Licences were issued but no Mining Licences.

Concessions.

9. Twelve Certificates of Validity were obtained for mining purposes in the Colony during 1925, whilst in Ashanti four were taken out.

(vii) GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Observations for possible Hydro-Electric Power.

1. A geological and water-power examination was made of the Asuboni River on the Kwahu plateau, of the middle and lower Afram River and the Volta River from the Akonsomo gorge near Ajina to the Afram-Volta confluence. The volumes were measured of these rivers and of those of the Wurubong, Akurum and Pawm Pawm, tributaries of the Afram.

2. It was ascertained that by a dam built across the Volta gorge at Akonsomo, a very large amount of hydro-electric power—upwards of 50,000 horse-power by a dam 50 feet high—could be obtained. The other streams were found to be able to supply much smaller but useful amounts of such power. Various streams in other parts of the country were also measured and much valuable information obtained.

Limestone.

3. The thick beds of limestone previously found by the Geological Survey in the Afram River near Okraji were examined further, and bulk samples taken from across the beds. Analyses of these show that the limestone is of good quality and specially suitable, in combination with the bauxite of Mt. Ejuanema of the same district, for the manufacture of high alumina cement.

4. At various places along the Afram Valley small lenticular deposits of good limestone were noticed.

5. The deposits near the Afram-Volta confluence, discovered by the Geological Survey in 1915, were tested by trenches. This work showed that the beds, though extending over a considerable area are repeatedly folded in small folds, thus indicating that they are of no great thickness. A large quantity of limestone of good to fair quality, suitable for various purposes does, however, occur there.

Bulk tests of Bauxite.

6. The bulk tests being made by the British Aluminium Company for the extraction of alumina from the bauxites of Mt. Ejuanema and Sefwi, and the smelting therefrom of aluminium have not yet been completed, but the work already done on them has given entirely satisfactory results. These tests are necessarily slow for they are being done as the Company has suitable opportunities for the tests.

Iron Ore.

7. At several places thin beds of hæmatite and hæmatite-sandstone were found in the rocks of the Akwapim series, but not in sufficient quantities to be economically valuable.

Platinum.

8. A fuller examination was made of the mineralized basic rock, previously discovered by this Survey on Mt. Mamkwadi near Winneba. The original samples of this rock showed by analyses from 2 to 6 grains of platinum per ton of rock. The additional samples collected from the same place, where the occurrence of a larger dyke was proved, gave on analysis a slightly larger proportion of platinum. Thus it is definite, as has been suspected for some years past, that platinum does occur in the Gold Coast. Though these proportions of platinum are much too small to be of economic value, it is expected that in this or other districts valuable deposits may be found eventually.

9. There are many occurrences of highly basic and ultra-basic rocks in the Gold Coast, and it is hoped that careful and systematic prospecting of them by pitting, panning and analysis will result in the discovery of deposits of economic value.

Manganese Ore.

10. A deposit of low-grade manganese ore was found near Bole, Wa district, and another near Tindongo, Zuaragu district, both in the Northern Territories.

Geological Examination along proposed New Railway Route.

11. In connection with the proposed railway extension into the Northern Territories three parties were actively engaged on the geological examination of the country on the Eastern and Western sides of the Kintampo-Sechedumasi plateau, thence northward into the Northern Territories. Large portions of country hitherto unknown to the Survey were mapped and many important geological observations made.

Goldfields Surveys.

12. The geological survey of the Obuasi auriferous belt was completed and it is expected that the report, plans and sections will be prepared and published in 1926.

13. The Survey, and plans and sections of the Tarkwa-Abosso banket belt were completed, and the report will be prepared and published shortly with the plans and sections.

Geological Survey of the Gambia Colony.

14. The examination of the Gambia, undertaken by the Gold Coast Geological Survey, **was** completed, and the report, map and sections prepared. They **will** be published this year.

Geological Maps of the Gold Coast and the Gambia.

15. The Geological Map of the Gold Coast to the scale of 1:1,500,000 (24 miles to one inch) was prepared, and with that of the Gambia, to the scale of 1:500,000 (8 miles to one inch), will be shown at the International Geological Congress at Madrid in May, 1926, in common with geological maps of the other parts of Africa, with a view to the publication of a geological map of the continent.

Publication.

16. A paper—"Outlines of the Mineral and Water-Power Resources of the Gold Coast, British West Africa, with Hints on Prospecting" with 13 plates of photographs, sections and map was published as Bulletin No. 1 of this Survey.

British Empire Exhibition.

17. Additions were made to the combined geological and mining collection exhibited at Wembley in 1924, and the collection again displayed in 1925, with satisfactory results regarding enquiries about the Gold Coast and its mineral and possible water-power resources.

18. As part of the Exhibition publicity programme of the Gold Coast Government, an illustrated lecture on these resources was given in London before a large and representative meeting of persons interested in minerals and mining.

CHAPTER IV.—LEGISLATION.

GOLD COAST COLONY.

1. During the year 1925, twenty-six Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, of which the following are those of more general interest :—

2. No. 1 of 1925.—The Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1925, consolidates, revises, and expands the previous law relating to motor traffic. Certain additional provisions, adapted from the corresponding legislation of other countries, such as Nigeria and Malta, are incorporated in this Ordinance. The general effect of the technical amendments made, together with the new motor traffic regulations made under the Ordinance, is to afford greater facilities to commercial traffic, and to reduce the cost of commercial motor transport.

3. No. 2 of 1925.—The Cinematograph Exhibitions Ordinance, 1925, repeals the former Cinematograph Ordinance (Chapter 161), and substitutes a more satisfactory enactment. The Ordinance is not designed to effect any radical alteration of the law ; but a leading feature of it is that it discriminates clearly between the restrictions relating to the premises in which a cinematograph exhibition is given, on the one hand, and the restrictions relating to the exhibition of particular films on the other hand.

4. No. 9 of 1925.—The Immigration Restriction Ordinance, 1925, consolidates and amends the previous law relating to immigration. It is based on the corresponding Ordinance of Nigeria (Chapter 157 of the Nigerian laws). Save in the case of persons who by section 4 are excepted from the operation of the Ordinance, this enactment renders far more rigid than heretofore the restrictions imposed on immigration.

Section 12 provides for the deportation of prohibited immigrants ; and section 14 defines the cases in which the owners and masters of ships, and employers, are made responsible for the expenses incurred in connection with the transport, maintenance, and deportation of prohibited immigrants.

5. No. 10 of 1925.—The Aliens Ordinance, 1925, is based on the corresponding Ordinance of Nigeria (Chapter 158 of the Nigerian laws). This Ordinance empowers the Governor-in-Council to order the deportation of any alien recommended by a Court, on his conviction, for deportation, and also of any other alien who in the opinion of the Governor-in-Council ought in the public interest to be deported.

6. No. 14 of 1925.—The Concessions Amendment Ordinance, 1925, amends the principal Ordinance by subjecting to the control of the Forestry Department the exercise of rights claimed with respect to timber and trees under concessions affecting land within prescribed areas ; but this provision does not apply to concessions validated prior to the date of the passing of the Ordinance.

7. No. 19 of 1925.—The Mining Health Areas Ordinance, 1925 was passed mainly as a result of the recommendations made by Professor Sir William Simpson in his report on sanitary conditions in Gold Coast mining areas in 1924. The Ordinance imposes strict requirements with respect to the employment and housing of native labourers employed on the mines ; the object in view being to reduce the mortality rate, and generally to improve the conditions of life.

8. No. 20 of 1925.—The Town Planning Ordinance, 1925, was framed in consultation with one of the legal Advisers to the Ministry of Health in London ; and parts of it are based on the corresponding Ordinance of Palestine.

It establishes a Central Town Planning Board, and empowers the Governor-in-Council, on the advice of the Board, to declare Town Planning Areas.

In towns possessing municipal institutions, the municipal authority is made responsible for executing the Town Planning Schemes ; while in other areas the schemes will be executed under the direction of the Board. The Board will, however, delegate at least a portion of the work to a Committee.

The Ordinance includes provision on modern principles for the assessment and payment of compensation to parties injuriously affected by a Town Planning Scheme ; and under the Ordinance certain questions are made referable to the arbitration of a single arbitrator. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, the Chief Justice will nominate one.

9. No. 21 of 1925.—The Education Ordinance, 1925, repeals and amends the previous law with respect to education.

The principal objects of this Ordinance are :—

- (a) to improve the status of teachers ;
- (b) to place education in the Colony on a sounder basis than that on which it previously stood ;
- (c) to give effect to recommendations which have been made from time to time by various Committees appointed by the Governor to consider and report on matters relating to and connected with education ; and
- (d) to reconstitute the Board of Education with an Unofficial majority.

Sections 4 and 5 give power to form and keep a Register of Teachers and prohibit any persons from teaching in schools if they are not on the Register of Teachers.

Section 6 prohibits the employment of teachers at a rate of salary lower than that prescribed.

Section 7 provides for employment of itinerant teachers, when such employment is deemed necessary.

Section 13 empowers the Director of Education to make the continuance of grants-in-aid to two or more schools conditional on their union, if such union will conduce to greater efficiency.

Section 14 enables higher grants to be awarded to schools opening and working in special areas.

Section 15 prohibits the taking of fees, emoluments, or gratuities of any kind in any school which does not satisfy the requirements of this Ordinance.

10. No. 26 of 1925.—The Births, Deaths, and Burials Ordinance, 1925, repeals, and somewhat elaborately amends the law on this subject.

The principal changes effected by this Ordinance are the following :—

- (1) All births and deaths of non-natives to be compulsorily registered ;
- (2) All births and deaths of Africans in certain areas (to be defined) to be compulsorily registered ;
- (3) The free issue of a Birth Certificate on registration of a birth ;
- (4) The registration of death and the issue of the Burial Certificate, at the place of death only ;
- (5) Provision is made to enable not-compulsorily registered births and deaths of Africans to be registered, if so desired ;
- (6) The duty to bury a corpse is imposed on certain specified persons ; and
- (7) Express provision is made with respect to cremations.

ASHANTI.

11. During the year 1925 thirteen Ordinances were enacted with respect to Ashanti, certain of which were enacted for the purpose of applying to Ashanti certain Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony.

12. Special mention may be made of the following Ordinances :—

No. 2 and No. 8 of 1925.—The Ashanti Administration Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925, and the Ashanti Administration Fifth Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925, contain statutory declarations as to the ownership of certain lands, premises, and buildings in Ashanti held or occupied by Government. These are declared to be vested in His Majesty the King.

13. No. 5 of 1925.—The Kumasi Public Health Board Ordinance, 1925, establishes a Public Health Board charged with the conduct of municipal affairs in Kumasi. This Ordinance is in the main an adaptation to local conditions of parts of the Municipal Corporations Ordinance, 1924 (No. 29 of 1924) of the Gold Coast Colony ; but the control retained by Government over the activities of the Board is closer than that to be exercised by Government over a Municipal Council in the Gold Coast Colony.

NORTHERN TERRITORIES OF THE GOLD COAST.

14. Seven Ordinances were enacted with respect to the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, certain of which were enacted for the purpose of applying to the Protectorate certain Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony.

15. Special mention may be made of the following Ordinances :—

No. 5 of 1925.—The Importation of Live-Stock Ordinance, 1925, imposes certain restrictions on the importation of live-stock into the Protectorate.

Live-stock are only allowed to enter at prescribed places of entry ; and they are made subject to quarantine. Moreover, live-stock passing through the Protectorate southwards must travel along prescribed routes.

16. No. 7 of 1925.—The Northern Territories Administration Fifth Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925, provides that Patents and Trade Marks which are protected in the Gold Coast Colony shall enjoy similar protection in the Protectorate.

THE BRITISH SPHERE OF TOGOLAND.

17. Only one Ordinance was enacted with respect to the Sphere of Togoland, namely the Liquor Trade Ascertainment Ordinance, 1925, No. 1 of 1925 ; and this Ordinance applies only to the Southern Section of the British Sphere of Togoland. The Ordinance provides that licences under the Spirit Licence Ordinance and under the Wine and Beer Licence Ordinance shall keep a true record of all spirits, wine, and beer bought and sold by them. This provision is made for the purpose of rendering available the information on the subject which is required annually by the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations.

CHAPTER V.—EDUCATION.

1. Considerable progress was made with the construction of the Prince of Wales College at Achimota while the plans of the Prince of Wales School were completed.

2. The chief object of Achimota is to be a model of all education, from kindergarten to higher education, a centre in which a standard will be set for, and from which a beneficial influence will radiate through, all the schools in the country. It will exemplify the policy of Government with regard to education, which may be summed up as the development of the mind in character, the education of the brain in knowledge and the training of the hand in arts and crafts.

3. For the better control of Education and the furtherance of Government policy in connection therewith, a new Education Ordinance was passed on the 30th December, 1925—see Chapter IV. Legislation. This Ordinance will not become law until the 1st January, 1927 owing to the considerable amount of preparatory work required to carry out the new system.

4. Education in the Gold Coast is chiefly in the hands of the Government and several Missions, the chief of which are, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion, the English Church, the Roman Catholic, the Scottish (including the Ewe) and the Wesleyan Missions.

5. The Scottish Mission came to the Gold Coast in 1918 to take over the work of the Basel Mission as the European Members of that Society had been deported some time earlier. After the deportation of the Missionaries, Government took entire control of the former Basel Mission Schools and it was not until the year 1920 that the Scottish Mission was in a position to assume control of, and financial responsibility for, these schools.

6. The Ewe Mission (working in conjunction with the Scottish Mission) was established in 1923. It took over that part of the Church work of the Bremen Mission formerly done in the Colony east of the River Volta and in the British sphere of Togoland. As in the case of the Basel Mission, the European personnel of the Bremen Mission had to leave the Colony during the war. After their departure and until the end of March 1926, the educational work of this Mission was entirely controlled and financed by Government. On the 1st April, 1926, the Ewe Mission assumed full responsibility for the former Bremen Mission Schools.

7. There are 22 Government Primary Schools having an enrolment of 4,940 boys and 859 girls, with a total average attendance of 4,589. Five of these schools are in the Western Province, three in the Central Province, five in the Eastern Province, four in Ashanti and five in the Northern Territories.

These schools are entirely supported and equipped from Government funds, and the total staff of teachers is 205, nearly all of whom hold local teachers' certificates. The staff is African with a few exceptions.

8. The Mission Schools are of two kinds, viz., Assisted and Non-assisted. The former schools have qualified under the Education Ordinance and Rules for Government assistance and receive annual grants-in-aid for general efficiency.

9. Under the new Education Ordinance (No. 21 of 1925) passed in Council on the 30th December, 1925, the grant-in-aid to schools will be based on general efficiency and the salaries paid to teachers. Teachers in Assisted and Non-assisted Schools will require to be registered.

10. The number of Assisted Schools in the Colony and Ashanti is 234. There are no Assisted Schools as yet in the Northern Territories. The Non-assisted Schools are usually small schools which have not, as yet, qualified for Government inspection, though there are, in addition, a few large schools which have not yet been placed on the "Assisted List." The number of Non-assisted Schools is about 460, but no accurate statistics are available.

11. The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Mission has two schools in the Central Province, four in the Trans-Volta District and one in Ashanti. The Scottish Mission has eleven schools in the Central Province, sixty-five in the Eastern Province, six in the Trans-Volta District and sixteen in Ashanti. The schools of the Ewe Mission are with one exception situated in the Trans-Volta District. The English Church Mission has three schools in the Western Province, a secondary school at Cape Coast in the Central Province, one school in the Eastern Province and two schools in Ashanti. Seven Roman Catholic Mission Schools are situated in the Western Province, ten in the Central Province, seven in the Trans-Volta District and five in Ashanti. The Wesleyan Mission has eight schools in the Western Province, eighteen primary schools and one secondary school in the Central Province, sixteen in the Eastern Province and five in Ashanti.

12. There is one undenominational school (The Royal School) on the Assisted List ; this is situated in Accra.

13. In all these primary schools, as well as in the Government primary schools, hand work is taught. In the schools in the interior it usually takes the form of agricultural work, gardens being attached to most of the schools.

14. Instruction is given in woodwork in the Government Schools at Accra, Cape Coast, Kumasi and Essiama. Book-binding printing, carpentry, netting, weaving and basket making are taught in some of the Mission Schools.

15. In the Assisted Schools there are 27,887 children on the roll, of whom 5,643 are girls. The average attendance at these schools is 24,984.

16. The total enrolment and average attendance in the Government and Assisted Schools is 32,827 and 29,573 respectively. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 34,690 and 30,456.

17. The amount awarded as grants-in-aid was £28,879 as compared with £28,672 in the previous year, an increase of £207.

Secondary Schools.

18. The English Church Mission Grammar School and Richmond College (Wesleyan Mission) are the only Secondary Schools on the Assisted List.

Training College for Teachers.

19. There are at present three centres at which students are trained to be teachers, viz., the Government Training College at Accra, the Scottish Mission Seminary at Akropong and Wesley College, Kumasi. The Government Training College, Accra, was opened in August, 1909. Students for the College are received from Government and Assisted Schools. The control and organisation of this college was transferred from the Education Department to Prince of Wales' College, Achimota, in January, 1926 as the present college will become merged into the Prince of Wales' College as soon as the buildings at Achimota have been completed.

20. At the Government Training College at the end of December, 1925, there were 132 students in residence. At the Scottish Mission Seminary, Akropong, there were 161 students in residence and the staff consisted of three Europeans and six African Assistants. At Wesley College, Kumasi, there were 54 students in residence whilst the staff consisted of four Europeans and four Africans.

21. A four years' course of study has been recently introduced in all training Colleges.

22. Each year more certificated teachers are drafted from the various Training Institutions into the Government and Assisted Schools and more efficient teaching is the result.

Technical and Trade Education.

23. An important educational establishment in the Colony is the Government Technical School at Accra. This School was opened in 1909 and from year to year improvements and gradual extensions have taken place. The demand for admission to this school, the only one of its kind in the Colony, is very great and only a very small percentage of the applicants can be admitted. As soon as the Training College is merged into Prince of Wales's College at Achimota, part of the present college will be taken over by the Technical School. This will allow for a considerable number of additional pupils, as there will be extra workshops and dormitory accommodation. The present staff of this school consists of a Principal, four European Masters, one of whom is Housemaster, and five African Teachers. Two of the masters and three teachers are engaged in the woodwork department and the other masters and teachers in the metalwork department.

24. Junior Trade Schools have been opened at Kibi and Assuantsi in the Eastern and Central Provinces of the Colony respectively, at Mampong in Ashanti, and at Yendi in the Northern Territories. At present there are 361 pupils in residence at these four schools; 142 are being trained in woodwork, 72 in masonry, 63 in agriculture and 84 in metalwork. Each school is in charge of a European Headmaster who is assisted by literary, woodwork, masonry and agricultural instructors. These schools are organized entirely on Boy Scout lines. One object of these schools is to provide a preliminary training for boys who desire to become skilled artisans; but the main aim is the training and development of character and responsibility in the individual.

Games.

25. The formation of School Football Leagues in different parts of the country has increased the popularity of Association Football. Hockey is played regularly at the Government Training College, the Government Girls' Schools at Accra and Cape Coast and at the Wesleyan Girls' High School, Accra.

26. Girls attending the larger schools are becoming more interested in games than they were a few years ago, and are beginning to realise that school is not merely a place for "book learning".

27. Boy Scout principles are observed in many of the schools and the movement is making great strides on correct lines in the country. Teachers and pupils alike, in schools where Boy Scout principles have been introduced, are most enthusiastic.

CHAPTER VI.—MEDICAL AND SANITARY,

Hospitals.

1. There are 8 European Hospitals, 27 African Hospitals and 1 Infant Welfare Hospital.

2. During the period under review construction work in Accra included an Infant Welfare Dispensary, female wards at the European Hospital and an isolation block and a venereal clinic at the Gold Coast Hospital.

3. During 1925, 3,174 Europeans and 94,736 Africans were treated in the Hospitals and Dispensaries of the Colony, as compared with 3,541 Europeans and 78,935 Africans in the previous year.

4. The number of patients admitted into the Accra Lunatic Asylum was 66 males and 9 females. The number discharged was 20 males and 3 females. The daily average number of inmates was 227.1, compared with 212.2 in 1924. There were 49 deaths—48 males and 1 female.

Public Health.

5. Registration of Births and Deaths is compulsory in 19 towns.

6. A new Births, Deaths and Burials Ordinance was passed and will come into force on 1st June, 1926. The total number of births and deaths registered in the 19 registration areas during 1925-26 is given hereunder with a column showing the corresponding figures for 1924-25 for purposes of comparison.

	1924-25			1925-26.
Births	3,011			2,914
Deaths	3,591			3,814
Still-births	124			142

7. The chief causes of death were, as usual, pulmonary and intestinal diseases.

8. An Ordinance entitled the Mining Health Areas Ordinance, which provides for the power to improve the health and housing of the natives employed in connection with the mining industry, was passed and came into force on 1st January 1926.

9. An analysis of the death and invaliding statistics of the European population is appended :—

	Number of residents.	Deaths.	Number Invalided.	Death rate per 1,000	Invaliding rate per 1,000
Officials ..	994	8	59	8.04	59.35
Merchants..	1,529	10	36	6.54	23.54
Miners ..	469	3	23	6.39	49.04
Missionaries	112	1	7	8.92	62.52
Total ..	3,104	22	125	average 7.08	average. 40.27

10. The death rate of 7.08 per thousand amongst the whole of the European population is an increase on the previous year, when the rate was 6.62 per thousand. The invaliding rate shows a slight decrease, 40.27 per thousand as compared with 43.26 in 1924-25.

11. The 8 deaths amongst European Officials were due to Blackwater Fever 1, Septicaemia 2, Heart Failure 1, Drowning 1, Chronic Alcoholism 1, Hepatitis 1, Suicide 1.

12. Of the 14 deaths amongst European Non-officials 3 were due to Blackwater Fever, 3 to Malaria, Intestinal Obstruction 1, Fractured Spine 1, Dysentery 2, Yellow Fever 1, Perforated Duodenal Ulcer 1, Drowning 1, Amoebic Abscess of Liver 1.

Sanitation.

13. Most of the large towns were in a fairly satisfactory sanitary condition.

14. 405,228 houses were inspected during the year and the average larval index was 0.78 per hundred.

15. There were 3,255 prosecutions under the Destruction of Mosquitoes Ordinance and 12,432 prosecutions for other insanitary conditions.

16. Surface water drainage schemes were carried out in Accra, Koforidua, Nsawam, Mangoase, Winneba, Saltpond, Swedru and Elmina.

17. Improvements to markets were effected at Keta, and Koforidua, and a large fly-proof fish and meat market is under construction at Accra.

18. The drainage of the Saltpond Lagoon—a long needed sanitary measure—was commenced.

19. The congested area at Cape Coast, which was demolished in 1924–1925, was laid out and drained.

20. The layout of the commercial and residential areas at Takoradi made excellent progress and many of the main roads were formed and gravelled and a commencement of the surface drainage was made.

21. In Ashanti, at Kumasi, a temporary market, new wells and a number of sanitary structures were provided.

22. Considerable progress was made with the new layout of Bekwai.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Accra Water Works.

23. An ample supply of filtered water was maintained during the year. The total consumption was 156,622,000 gallons. Service mains were extended.

Sekondi Water Works.

24. The supply of filtered water to Sekondi has been satisfactorily maintained. The total consumption was 112,000,000 gallons.

Several mains have been extended, and the new reservoir and water Tower at Takoradi were almost completed.

Winneba Water Works.

25. An ample supply of good water was maintained. The total consumption was 1,598,000 gallons. The Pump House has been rebuilt in concrete.

Cape Coast Water Supply.

26. Investigations in the Colony have been completed and plans are now before Consulting Engineers in England. If found satisfactory an early start will be made with the work.

Kumasi Water Supply.

27. Investigations are still being carried out. Twenty Iron Tanks have been erected together with a large concrete one holding 50,000 gallons.

28. At Koforidua, preliminary investigations with a view to a pipeborne water supply are being made,

29. At Ho, a concrete dam and distributing basin have been built and it is hoped to instal a pipe line to the market place in the near future.

30. At Dixcove, an air motor has been erected to a well with a daily output of 6,000 gallons ; this delivers into a reinforced concrete service tank of 6,300 gallons capacity.

Epidemic Diseases.

31. Outbreaks of epidemic disease occurred during the year in various places.

32. Eight cases of Yellow Fever were reported and their distribution was as follows:—

Accra	..	.. 4 Cases.
Nsawam	..	.. 2 „
Winneba	..	.. 1 Case.
Cape Coast	..	.. 1 „

33. Extensive outbreaks of Small-pox occurred during the year in Ashanti, and the Northern Territories. 311,927, Vaccinations against Small-pox were performed, of which 98,869 were certified as successful, giving a percentage of 31.69.

Climate.

34. The Climate though hot and damp, is cooler than that of most tropical countries situated in the same latitude.

35. It is not in itself unhealthy ; but an evil reputation has been earned for it in the past by the prevalence of mosquito-borne diseases, against which all possible precautions have constantly to be taken.

36. The Gold Coast is peculiarly free from any of the discomforts associated with tropical countries ; hot nights and intense heat by day are the exception rather than the rule, while insects are comparatively unobtrusive.

37. The efforts of the Medical and Sanitary authorities in promoting the treatment of disease and the knowledge of general hygiene continue to exercise a beneficial effect on the general health of Europeans.

38. The rainfall varies with the configuration of the country and is highest in the mining districts of Tarkwa, Upper and Lower Wasaw, etc., and also at Axim. The first rains, or rainy season proper, begin in March and end in July ; the later rains are spread over the months of September and October. The rainy season is marked by a considerable fall in the temperature, which is found to be refreshing to many Europeans, but proves trying to some.

39. The Harmattan season begins in December, and ends in February.

Meteorology.

40. The following Table gives the rainfall recorded at various stations during the post four years :—

Station.			1922	1923	1924	1925.
			inches.	inches.	inches.	inches.
Accra	..	..	27.70	21.16	28.55	36.54
Aburi	..	..	52.09	43.14	54.14	57.22
Sekondi	..	..	46.19	39.29	42.25	43.71
Axim	..	..	60.45*	90.18	61.82	69.41
Tarkwa	..	..	58.99*	71.72	73.67	59.11
Kumasi	..	..	61.95	55.75	51.96	67.24
Tamale	..	..	37.02	36.03	35.73	45.77

41. At Accra, the mean shade temperature was 79.1° and at Kumasi and Sekondi 79.0° and 80.3° respectively. The mean daily range of temperature in Accra, was 19.1.

VITAL STATISTICS.

42. The population of the Gold Coast, at the Census taken in 1921 was approximately 2,296,400.

43. The monthly average number of Europeans resident in the Colony during the two years, 1924-1925 and 1925-1926, was :—

		1924-25	1925-26.
Officials	..	846	994
Mercantile	..	1,482	1,529
Mining	..	434	469
Missions	..	104	112
		<u>2,866</u>	<u>3,104</u>

*11 months record only.

CHAPTER VII.—POLICE AND PRISONS.

Police.

Establishment.

1. On the 1st April, 1926, the establishment of the Police was as follows:—

Inspector-General of Police.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police.

Director, Criminal Investigation Department.

27 Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of Police including two Africans.)

1 Inspector of Weights and Measures.

42 Superintendents.

1,546 Sergeants, Corporals and Constables.

2. The strength of Non-Commissioned Officers and men in the different branches of the Force is given below:—

(a) General Police	..	..	364	N.C.Os. and men
(b) Escort Police	..	..	809	" "
(c) Railway Police	..	..	133	" "
(d) Marine Police	..	..	51	
(e) Criminal Investigation Department	..	..	61	
Band	..	..	43	
Recruits	..	..	85	

1,546 N.C.Os. and men

3. Recruiting has been satisfactory. There is now a "waiting list" of would-be Recruits, a thing which has never existed before.

4. The training is at present carried on in the Accra Police Barracks and is of necessity limited to the accommodation and facilities possible in very restricted and inadequate space.

5. The erection of a Police Training Depot or School has been under consideration for some years and it is now intended to build a suitable establishment when a satisfactory site has been selected.

6. The personnel of the Force, other than Superior Officers, is mainly recruited from the Gold Coast and adjacent territories.

7. 246 Recruits were enlisted as against 227 for the previous year.

8. There were twenty-six Casualties from all causes.

General Police.

9. These are literate, or partially so, and are natives of the Gold Coast Colony with a few from Ashanti. The duties performed by the General Police include all police duties, but some are specially detailed for Station office work, the keeping of criminal and other records, taking finger prints, issuing licences and numerous other duties that cannot be carried out by illiterates.

Escort Police.

10. These are illiterates and are mainly natives of the Northern Territories. Amongst their number are many old soldiers of the Gold Coast Regiment, and they are generally of a more military class than the educated General Police. They are available for all duties not requiring reading or writing and are specially useful on escort duty, guards, patrols and the like. In the event of any unusual disturbance, Escort Police are employed to cope with it.

Marine Police.

11. It is necessary to recruit men specially for this branch of the Force, who work under the Customs Department. Swimming and a knowledge of boat work is needed. The Marine Police are illiterate.

Railway Police.

12. Men are detached from the General and Escort Police to provide the numbers required for Railway duties.

Prisons.

13. The following remarks and statistics refer to Prisons in the Colony and Ashanti, and the mandated territory of Togoland, information as to Prisons in the Northern Territories being contained in the Annual Report on the Northern Territories.

14. The Staff of the Prisons Department in 1925-6, consisted of nine European Officers (an Inspector-General, Deputy Inspector-General, five Prison Superintendents and two Technical Instructors), one Assistant Prison Superintendent, 291 (including 3 Supernumeraries) African Warders of various grades on the establishment, and about 108 Temporary Warders, whilst five Matrons attended the female prisoners.

15. There are in the Colony thirteen Prisons, in Ashanti six and in the mandated territory of Togoland two. The Prisons at Accra, Sekondi and Kumasi are in the charge of Prison Superintendents, the others being supervised by District Commissioners. The Sekondi Central Prison is used solely for male Prisoners undergoing long-sentences, whilst Accra and Kumasi take both long and short sentence convicts. There is separate accommodation for females at Accra, Elmina, Keta and Kumasi.

16. The average daily number of prisoners during 1925-26, was 1,433 as compared with 1,390 in 1924-25. Of these 951 were distributed amongst the four Central Prisons as under :—

Sekondi Central	..	..	260 (long-sentence)
Accra Central (Ussher Fort)	185	do.	
Accra (James Fort)	..	211 (short-sentence)	
Cape Coast	..	53 (including 18 long-sentence)	
Kumasi	..	242 (including 46 long-sentence)	

17. The total number of persons committed to prison during 1925-26, was 5,862 as compared with 5,616 in 1924-25. Of the total committals 60 per cent were for penal imprisonment, 10 per cent for debt and the remaining 30 per cent for safe keeping pending trial. There were 318 females and 36 juveniles received during the year.

18. There were eight executions, two at Sekondi and six at Accra.

19. There were forty-five escapes and twenty-two recaptures, as compared with forty-six and twenty-four respectively in 1924-25. Sanitary Labour, including bush-clearing, etc., involving dispersion in small gangs, was chiefly responsible for the escapes.

20. Thirty-five persons died whilst undergoing imprisonment, as compared with twenty-two in 1924-25, a verdict of death from natural causes being returned in each case.

21. The daily average on the sick list was 3.1 per cent.

22. The cost of the Department for the year was £43,804 as compared with £43,878 in 1924-25, the average cost of each prisoner being £30 11s. 4d. On the other hand a sum of £6,708 was received for prison industries, as against a sum of £6,340 in 1924-25. Rations cost £6,200, being a decrease of £250 on the previous year. The continued decrease is accounted for by the development of the Prison farms, more particularly the large farm at Kumasi. A mechanical corn grinder installed at Ussher Fort, Accra, during the year has proved most satisfactory and besides being economical produces a very much finer flour than was possible under the old system of crushing the grain on stones.

23. The Carpenters', Shoemakers', and Tailors' Shops at Accra and Sekondi, were fully occupied.

24. At Sekondi basket-making and mat-weaving shops were also busy throughout the year.

25. At Accra, the building of a new prison on the site of the old Ussher Fort made good progress, the work being done entirely by prison labour under the supervision of the prison staff. These works afforded ample instruction and practice in Bricklaying, Joinery, Shuttering, etc., for a number of prisoners. The prisoners employed in the shops and in the skilled labour connected with the building above mentioned were long-sentence prisoners. At Kumasi prisoners were usefully employed in farming, brick-making and rebuilding the prison. Elsewhere short-sentence prisoners were employed mostly under the Sanitary and Public Works Department.

26 During the latter part of the year a School for Warders was started at James Fort, Accra, where Warders are given courses of instruction and it is hoped by this means to increase the smartness and efficiency of the Warder Staff.

Criminal Statistics.

1. The number of convictions in the Superior Courts of the Colony during 1924-25 and 1925-26 was as follows :—

	1924-25		1925-26
Offences against the person	9	Murder, other than wife, concubine or child	9
Slave dealing	—	Manslaughter	19
Offences against property	41	Attempted murder	2
Other offences	32	Rape	12
		Other offences against the person	8
		Offences against property with violence to the person	9
		Other offences against pro- perty	10
		Other Crimes	31
	—		—
	82		100
	—		—

2. There were 32 acquittals in 1925-26 as compared with 53 in the previous year.

3. The number of Summary convictions during the past two years was :—

	1924-1925		1925-1926
Offences against the person	1,833	Offences against the person	1,913
Slave dealing	—	Praedial Larceny	62
Offences against property	1,992	Malicious injury to property	5
Other offences	7,126	Offences against property other than Praedial larceny and malicious injury to property	2,155
		Other Crimes	9,609
		Offences against the Master and Servant Act	53
		Offences against Revenue and Municipal laws and other laws relating to the social economy of the Colony	185
		Miscellaneous minor offences	31
	<hr/> 10,951 <hr/>		<hr/> 14,013 <hr/>

4. The number of acquittals was 9,728, against 8,976 in 1924-25.

Civil Actions.

1. 437 Civil actions were brought in the Divisional Courts of the Colony during the period under review.

CHAPTER VIII. COMMUNICATIONS.

(i) Shipping.

1. There was an increase in the number and tonnage of shipping which entered and cleared during 1925 as compared with the former year. 760 vessels, representing an aggregate registered tonnage of 2,090,805, entered the ports of the Colony during the year, and 757 vessels of a total registered tonnage of 2,090,345 cleared for overseas in the same trade period. In 1924 the vessels entered inwards totalled 700 vessels, representing a registered tonnage of 1,851,939, and 685 vessels cleared outwards during the same period with a total registered tonnage of 1,820,025.

2. The following table gives the nationality of shipping which entered the ports of the Gold Coast:—

	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	Numbers.	Tons.	Numbers.	Tons.
British	430	1,239,912	—	—
French	79	217,229	—	—
American	40	138,772	1	1,107
Dutch	78	191,286	—	—
Norwegian	22	75,586	—	—
German	94	184,417	—	—
Italian	12	37,854	—	—
Swedish	3	3,697	—	—
Portuguese	—	—	1	945
Total	758	2,088,753	2	2,052

(ii) Harbours.

SEKONDI HARBOUR.

1. Dredging has been carried on throughout the year and 33,213 cubic yards of sand have been removed.

2. Extensive and continuous repairs to all jetties are being continued.

TAKORADI HARBOUR.

3. During the early part of the period under review the progress made with the works, due partly to the state of the quarry, was below expectations. Mr. Palmer and Sir Malcolm McAlpine paid a visit of inspection to the site in September, 1925 and an agreement was arrived at whereby intensive development of the quarry was made possible. A good rate of progress has now been achieved and should this be substantially maintained, the work should be completed before the 31st December, 1928.

4. During the year approximately 350,000 cubic yards of granite have been quarried, the bulk of which has been used to extend the Main Breakwater by 2,880 feet, making its total length to date approximately 5,100 feet. The Lee Breakwater, which had been left practically in abeyance since September, 1924, was recommenced in January, 1926 and has now reached a total length of 1,480 feet. A rubble dyke has been constructed across the west side of the harbour behind the site of the Lighter Wharves, and with this as a base of operations the construction of the West Lighter Wharf has been put in hand. To date a length of 460 feet is completed up to the underside of the decking. On the inside of the dyke, filling of the reclamation has been proceeded with, a total of 186,000 cubic yards of material having been deposited to date.

5. The layout of the railway line has been modified so as to eliminate unnecessary curvature and a commencement has been made with the construction of the link line joining the present Quarry-Harbour line with the Gold Coast Railway Main Line north of "Location". Approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of permanent track have been laid during the year, and over 11,800 cubic yards of granite ballast have been deposited.

(iii) Railways.

1. The total mileage open for traffic at the close of the year 1925-26 was 394.

2. The main line runs in a northerly direction from the port of Sekondi to Kumasi in Ashanti, a distance of 168 miles (gauge 3' 6"), thence to Accra in a south-easterly direction, a further distance of 192 miles.

3. The branch Lines (3' 6" gauge) operated from the Sekondi-Juaso Section are the Tarkwa-Prestea Branch with a length of 18 miles running in a north-westerly direction from Tarkwa, and the Inchaban Branch which runs in an easterly direction taking off the main line at $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Sekondi and having a length of $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

4. The only Branch operated from the Accra-Juaso Section is the Weshiang Branch (2' 6" gauge) which runs from Accra in a westerly direction to Weshiang, a distance of 10 miles.

5. The total capital expenditure on the 31st March, 1926 stood at £8,049,142.

6. The gross revenue amounted to £1,102,301, an increase of £35,741 as compared with the gross revenue for the year 1924-25.

7. The working expenditure, including a contribution of £97,950 to the Renewals Fund, was £568,012, an increase of £16,279 on the 1924-25 working.

8. The net receipts were £534,289, an increase of £19,462 over 1924-25.

9. The General Financial Result is as follows :—

Loan charges

(a) Interest	£271,174
(b) Sinking Fund	52,115
(c) Expenses of Managing Loan ..	716
(d) Cost of raising Railway portion of 1925 Loan.. .. .	54,794

	378,799
Pensions	14,901

	Total	393,700
Net Receipts		534,289

Surplus	140,589
-----------------	---------

Traffic.

10. The number of passengers conveyed during the year was 1,487,164, an increase of 139,248 over the year 1924-1925.

11. The total tonnage of goods traffic, exclusive of Live Stock, carried for the year 1925-1926 was 797,260, an increase of 94,157 over the previous year.

12. The principal increases were :—

Commodity.	Increase over 1924-25.
Coal, Coke and Patent Fuel	5,480 tons.
Manganese	98,731 "
Native Produce	1,498 "
Rubber	766 "

13. The principal decreases were :—

Commodity.	Decrease under 1924-25.
Cocoa	5,867 tons.
Firewood	6,572 "
Hardware	1,512 "

Central Province Railway.

14. The location and staking out of the Central Province Railway was completed and its construction well advanced. The line was open to Fosu (50 miles) early in April, 1926, and will be open to Oda (80 miles) before the ensuing cocoa season.

Deviations.

15. Re-alignment and re-grading in the last section from Obuasi to Kumasi is nearing completion.

(iv.) Roads.

1. The mileage of main trade roads maintained by the Public Works Department is 1,366 against 1,241 in 1924-25.

2. The mileage of pioneer roads which are maintained under the Roads Ordinance by the Chiefs amounts to 3,368 as compared with 2,885 in 1924-25.

3. The tar-metalling of Public Works Department trade roads has been vigorously proceeded with and excellent progress has been made. This treatment is enabling the roads to stand up to the heavy traffic and has very materially reduced the cost of maintenance.

4. Among the most important road works carried out during the year have been the completion to Wioso of the Dunkwa-Krokosua Road, the linking up of Axim with Sekondi by a motor road, the metalling and tarring of the Winneba-Swedru road and the great improvements effected in the great North Road from Kumasi to the Northern Territories, enabling motor traffic to use it for the greater portion of the year.

5. The following work was carried out by the Temporary Roads Department which was formed for the purpose of constructing Railway feeder roads :—

Fifty miles of road were surveyed in Ashanti and seventy odd miles in the Central Province of the Colony.

Construction was confined to the Central Province where thirty-five miles of roads to feed the Central Railway were completed. Another thirty miles were under construction at the end of the year. A maximum grade of one in fifteen was adhered to.

Ferries.

6. A stern wheel ferry operated during the year at Senkyi on the Volta River. This will probably be replaced by a stream-line or current propelled ferry in the near future and a similar one will be installed at Yeji, where the great North Road crosses the Volta River.

(v.) Motor Transport.

1. The European personnel of the Transport Department for the period under review consisted of the Chief Transport Officer and three Engineer Transport Officers, who were assisted by two African Assistant Transport Officers.

2. The amount of tonnage handled by the Department was 37,812 tons as compared with 17,078 tons for 1924-25. In 1924-25, the cost of the Department was £34,267. In 1925-26, the amount expended was £25,503 which shows a reduction of approximately £8,764.

3. Motor Transport Stations were maintained throughout the year at Accra, Sekondi, Kumasi and Ho.

4. The Albion six-wheeled combination lorries gave satisfactory service, but difficulties were experienced with the Guy lorries.

5. The services rendered by contractors who supplied the balance of Government requirements of motor transport in the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories were not satisfactory and the system of placing fixed contracts is being discontinued in 1926-27.

6. A pronounced feature in connection with the work of this Department during 1925-26, was the remarkable increase in the quantity of Government Stores and Materials handled by the Department.

7. The following table gives particulars of the licences issued and renewed under the Motor Traffic Regulations during the last two years :—

Vehicles.	1924-25	1925-26.
New Licences issued	1,909	2,207
Licences renewed ..	1,919	2,429
	<hr/> 3,828	<hr/> 4,636

(vi.) Posts and Telegraphs.

1. There were one hundred and eighty-six Post Offices in the Colony, Ashanti, and the Northern Territories open at the end of the year ; of these one hundred and thirty were Postal Agencies.

2. The Post Office Savings Bank business transacted shews an increase in deposits as compared with 1924. The deposits totalled 14,193 and amounted to £45,478 in value, an increase of 2,386 in number, and £5,858 in value as compared with the previous year.

3. The number of withdrawals was 7,255, value £40,865, shewing an increase of 901 in number and £3,554 in value compared with 1924-25.

4. The average value of each deposit was £3 4s. 1d. as against £3 7s. 1d. in the previous year and each withdrawal £5 12s. 8d. as against £5 17s. 5d. The number of depositors at the end of the year was 7,299 and the amount standing to the credits of these accounts has already been given in paragraph 18 of Chapter II, Finance.

5. The number of Telegraph Offices open during the year was ninety-six.

6. The Cable traffic dealt with through the African Direct Telegraph Company was slightly less than in the previous year. The figures being 11,165 messages forwarded and 9,120 received as compared with 11,331 and 9,576 respectively in 1924-25.

7. The number of private messages received and forwarded by the Wireless Station at Accra was 1,725, shewing a slight increase in number as compared with the previous financial year.

8. The number of Public Call Offices on the Trunk Telephone System was increased from thirty-one to forty-one during the year.

9. The number of Exchange Line connections increased from 519 to 578.

10. Paid Trunk Calls during the year totalled 45,126 as compared with 29,919 in the previous year.

11. The business dealt with by the Postal and Telegraph Department during the years 1924-25 and 1925-26 was as follows :—

	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£
Sale of stamps for postal purposes ..	25,898	25,841
Number of letters and postcards received and despatched	7,910,432	7,852,064
Registered packets	978,024	840,672
Book packets	1,007,832	1,765,544
Parcels	128,600	146,899
Money Orders	141,439	155,629
Postal Orders	199,760	208,828
Inland Telegrams private	288,937	311,960
Inland Telegrams official	127,435	80,772
Trunk Telephone Calls private	29,919	45,126

CHAPTER IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

I. The outstanding events of the year were :—

(a) Lighthouses.

New Lighthouses equipped with powerful modern lighting apparatus have been erected at Cape Three Points and Accra, replacing the old structures.

(b) Hospitals.

At the Gold Coast Hospital, Accra, three additional European Staff Quarters, Quarters for African Nurses and Kroom-boys Quarters were erected and a Venereal Clinic and Water Tower were in course of construction.

The Princess Marie Louise Hospital, Accra, which was almost completed, is a fully equipped Children's Hospital and is the first of its kind to be erected in the Gold Coast and should be of the greatest value.

The European Hospital, Accra, is being enlarged by the addition of a Female Ward, new Bath Room block, Dispensary and Kitchen.

New African Hospitals were erected at Dunkwa and Tamale, and a European Hospital was nearing completion at Tamale.

At Kumasi a commencement was made with the scheme for the extension and improvement of the existing Hospital.

(c) Schools.

Prince of Wales's College, Achimota. All the staff bungalows, power house, lodge, post office and water tanks are completed and considerable progress has been made with the Administration, Class Room, Art and Laboratory, Dining Hall and Dormitory Blocks.

A commencement was made with the erection of the new Boys School Kumasi.

The Government Girls School, Accra was extended by the addition of four new Class Rooms and an Assembly Hall.

The Government Schools at Obo in the Eastern Province and at Essiama in the Western Province have been rebuilt.

(d) Courts, Offices, etc.

District Commissioners' Courts at Swedru and a Mampong, Ashanti, were erected.

New Customs and Water Works Offices were erected at Accra.

(e) **Quarters.**

Thirty-one new bungalows were built at various Stations.

(f) **Police Barracks.**

New Barracks were erected at Swedru and Half Assinie, and additions and improvements were effected to those at Sekondi and Axim.

At Nkawkaw and at Mampong, Ashanti, New Barracks were in course of construction.

Guard Rooms and Police Posts were erected at Accra and Kumasi.

(g) **Prisons.**

At Accra and Kumasi the enlargement of existing Prisons was continued, and the Winneba, Sekondi and Tamale Prisons were improved.

Warders Quarters were built at Ho.

(h) **Posts Offices.**

New buildings at Nkawkaw and at Mampong in Ashanti were almost completed. A new Telephone Exchange was erected at Winneba and the Koforidua Post Office was extended.

CHAPTER X.—SURVEYS.

1. The work of the Survey Department continues to show a steady increase, both as regards field work and map reproduction. At Headquarters, the Drawing Offices, Computing Branch, Printing Section and Lands Branch are constantly kept working at high pressure to meet urgent demands. In particular the value of the work of the Lands Branch is beginning to be more generally recognised by other Departments and by the general public.

The Cadastral Branch.

2. In the Cadastral Branch the surveys of town sites on the Central Province Railway were continued. The Eastern-Western Akim Boundary Survey made satisfactory progress, the boundary being settled on the ground by arbitration as the survey proceeded. The town survey of Nsawam was commenced and a number of other miscellaneous surveys carried out. Probably the most interesting feature of the year's work was the results obtained by the Special Cadastral Framework Party, which completed the observation of the main triangulation as far as Obuasi. Here a check base almost four miles long was measured. In a chain whose length is about 130 miles, the difference between the computed and the observed length of the base was about one foot and the difference between the observed and computed azimuth about six seconds of arc.

3. In all, twenty-two stations were observed and twenty-six others reconnoitred and, in some cases, cleared or partially cleared.

4. A number of forest reserves were demarcated by the Special Forest Reserves Survey Party. The total number completed so far is eight and work is in hand on two others.

5. There was a good deal of activity in Concession Surveys. These surveys were carried out by Licensed Surveyors and their plans and computations checked by the Survey Department. Twenty-two Concessions in all were checked during the year.

6. The Lands Branch was employed, not only in carrying out the routine of dealing with Government acquisitions of land, but in sorting out and indexing a mass of old records. The result is that information concerning Government land is much more accessible and easier to trace. This branch, next year, will take over the existing Lands Deeds Registry at Accra.

The Topographical Branch.

7. The total area surveyed to the end of March, 1926, by the Topographical Branch is 36,500 square miles, the main topographical work done, or in progress, during the year being on the Yeji, Kamompa, Kintampo, Prampram, Akuse, Ada and Dsoje Sheets.

8. The International Boundary Commission working on that part of the Northern Boundary, which lies between the Red Volta and Sisili Rivers, completed their work and a similar Commission commenced operations in December, on the Western Frontier.

9. Work was continued in fixing points for the Topographical Survey by means of observed latitudes and longitudes, obtained by means of the reception of the wireless time signals. The output of this section shows a tendency to increase as experience is gained, with corresponding decrease in cost per point fixed.

The Survey School.

10. As already noted in last year's report, work at the School was held up during the greater portion of that year owing to the invaliding of Mr. W. Cutland, but was re-opened in March, 1925, under Mr. A. G. Fraser, Junior, and Mr. P. P. Brown, of the Prince of Wales' College Staff. By this means, the new batch of pupils, who had passed the entrance examination in August, 1924, were able to complete their first year. The second and third year pupils, who had, in the meantime, been undergoing training in the field, did not return to the School until Mr. Cutland arrived in July, 1925.

11. A further entrance examination was held in August, 1925, at which 296 candidates presented themselves, and, of this number, 19 were selected for training.

12. Nine pupils were finally passed out of the School.

13. At present, all pupils, on entering the School, are graded as Second Division Surveyors and draw pay from the day they enter. This arrangement, which in theory is not a particularly desirable one, was unavoidable when the School first opened in 1921, as at that time almost every literate African, if he could not afford to become a barrister or Doctor, regarded a clerkship as the most desirable outlet for his abilities. The wider vista and interest in education which the imminent opening of Achimota has opened out and created will, it is hoped, help to cause a greater willingness to enter occupations other than clerkships. On this account, and to bring the School into line with Achimota regulations, pupils entering after the next examination will not be paid, although they will receive a small allowance while they are employed in the field. This policy will undoubtedly cause a large decrease in the number of applicants for entrance, but this cannot be helped, as the payment of a salary for being educated can no longer be justified.

Reproduction and Printing.

14. Demands for maps, diagrams, etc., from the public so greatly increased during the year that steps had to be taken to cope with the steady inrush of requisitions. New machinery and personnel became imperative, but, even with these additions, it was a difficult task to cope with current work.

15. The total number of maps and diagrams printed was 86,000, or treble the number of the previous year. The total number of prints taken on the automatic litho machine was 200,000.

16. The prices of the maps were revised on April, 1st, 1925, the present maps being approximately two-fifths of the prices of the previous year. The value of maps issued and sold amounted to £2,100. These figures, if taken at the previous year's value, would total £5,200 or an increase of £1,630 on the year 1924-25, and it is probable that next year will show a greater proportionate increase.

17. The reproduction of Sierra Leone surveys is being done at Survey Headquarters, Accra. A wall map of Sierra Leone was compiled and will be printed during the coming year. The first sheet of the Freetown survey was received and work on it is now in hand. It is expected that the first of the one-inch topographical sheets will arrive at an early date for reproduction.

18. Efforts are still being made to bring any new maps published before the public notice. Posters of the latest map published, the new General Map of the whole Colony, were forwarded to every possible quarter of the Gold Coast, with the result that 600 General Maps were disposed of within three months of printing.

CHAPTER XI.—WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1925 FOR THE GOLD COAST.

Economic Investigations and Enquiries.

The following investigations and enquiries were carried out for the Government of the Gold Coast.

Timbers.

In accordance with an arrangement made with the Conservator of Forests, a systematic investigation is being carried out at the Imperial Institute of a number of Gold Coast Timbers which were forwarded for display at the British Empire Exhibition. The Timbers are being submitted in turn to mechanical tests and working trials in the Timber Laboratory of the Institute, and the opinion of the Imperial Institute Advisory Committee on Timbers is then obtained as to the purposes for which they are suitable and their commercial possibilities in the United Kingdom.

During 1925 the examination of two of the timbers (Subaha and Attabini) was completed and reports forwarded to the Colony.

1. Subaha is a soft, fairly light wood of plain appearance, which works easily with all machine and hand tools.

The wood has fair strength in transverse bending and in compression along the grain, and is of average stiffness. The resistance to compression across the grain is fairly low owing to the porous nature of the wood, and the hardness, shearing strength and tensile strength are moderate.

The Timbers Committee reported that clean, sound timber might possibly be useful as a second-grade substitute for mahogany, but it is doubtful if it would compete successfully against the many timbers of this class already available, as it lacks character and does not readily finish to a fine surface. Subaha wood should, however, be useful in the Gold Coast for many light constructional and other purposes where great strength is not required, and for which imported softwoods are largely used at present.

2. Attabini is a soft, fairly light wood of good but rather coarse appearance. It works easily with most machine and hand tools and finishes fairly well. It has little tendency to crack, and does not "check" when dried.

The transverse bending strength and resistance to compression along the grain are moderately good, though the wood is not stiff. The strength to resist shearing, cleavage, and tension and compression perpendicular to the grain is that of an average soft wood.

The Imperial Institute Advisory Committee on Timbers were of opinion that if supplies are available from the Gold Coast at prices equal to average values of African mahogany, there should be a market for this timber in the United Kingdom, where it would be suitable for most purposes for which the more open-grained varieties of African mahoganies are employed.

Cussonia Bark.

A sample of *Cussonia* bark from Togoland was received from the Government Botanist for an opinion as to its possible commercial value. Although the material resembled ordinary cork it was lacking in resiliency, and firms who were consulted were of opinion that the bark could not be utilised as a cork substitute. It was not possible to suggest any industrial use for which the *Cussonia* bark could be remuneratively exported.

Shea Nuts.

Information was furnished to a firm specialising in fuels and power alcohol regarding the composition of shea nut kernels and the residual meal; together with observations on a suggestion that the pulp (pericarp) surrounding the nuts might be utilised as a source of alcohol.

Sisal Hemp.

A firm contemplating the production of Sisal Hemp in the Gold Coast was furnished with information as to the cultivation of the fibre and the present position and prospects of the industry in the Colony.

Anaphe Silk.

At the request of the Director of Agriculture particulars were supplied regarding *Anaphe* wild silk in the Gold Coast, the possible commercial utilisation of the material, and the prospects of developing the industry in the Colony.

Other enquiries dealt with during the year included the following :—

The milling properties of *Funtumia* and *Landolphia* rubbers in comparison with Para rubber; seeds of ***Picralima Klaineana***; a supply of palm nuts for testing a nut-cracking machine for use in the Gold Coast; diseases and pests affecting tropical Agricultural products; results of examination at the Imperial Institute of various oilseeds; the suitability of land near Axim for the cultivation of a new fibre. A number of enquiries relating to the climate, cost of living and general conditions in the Colony were also dealt with.

British Empire Exhibition, 1925

The Imperial Institute was again allotted space in H.M. Government Pavilion at Wembley for an exhibit to illustrate its work in promoting the utilisation of the raw materials of the Empire. Selected examples of the products investigated were shown, including the following from the Gold Coast :—

Oil Palm products ; Shea Fruits, Nuts and Butter ; and Bauxite.

Publications.

The following articles of interest to the Colony were published in the Bulletin during the year :—

Seeds of *Citrullus Vulgaris* as a Source of Oil.

The Cultivation, Production and Utilisation of the Groundnut.

Henequen Fibre or Mexican Sisal Hemp.

In the Monograph issued by the Imperial Institute entitled " Bauxite and Aluminium " a description of occurrences of Bauxite in the Gold Coast was given, together with analyses made at the Institute.

Gold Coast Court.

The exhibits lent from the Court to the Gold Coast Pavilion at Wembley have been returned.

Additional exhibits including oilseeds, fibres and miscellaneous vegetable products and agricultural implements were received from Wembley at the close of the exhibition. A relief map of the Gold Coast together with models representing respectively the Hospital at Accra ; Prince of Wales College, Achimota ; a factory showing cacao fermentation ; and Takoradi Harbour have also been transferred to the Court.

A collection of minerals including bauxite, limestone, manganese and gold banket ore, presented by the Director of the Geological Survey, has been placed on exhibition.

Lectures on the Gold Coast and Gold Coast products have been given to School parties and to the public by the Guide Lecturers.

Samples of Gold Coast products have been supplied to Schools and enquirers.

Picture postcard views of the Gold Coast have been placed on sale at the Central Stand.

The Court was closed from the 1st November for re-decoration and the installation of new exhibits. A new and extended site for the Court is being provided.

27th September, 1926.

G. C. du BOULAY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1239 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1331 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1925, No. 1334 .. 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 .. 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1326 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1331 .. 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1328 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1293 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 .. 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1323 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GRENADE, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
'IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15) .. 2s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-1925 (Colonial No. 24) 9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1334.

NEW HEBRIDES.

REPORT FOR 1925.

*For Reports for 1923 and 1924, see Nos. 1216 and 1273 respectively
(Price 6d. each).*



LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Admiral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 6d. Net.

58-29-0-25.

No. 1334.

NEW HEBRIDES.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

General.

The New Hebrides, to which are attached the Banks and Torres Islands, lie between the 12th and 20th degrees of south latitude, and the 165th and 170th degrees of east longitude, and have an area of about 5,700 square miles. The natives are Melanesians, but in places there is a mixture of Polynesian blood.

A joint Naval Commission was established in 1888 by agreement with France, to protect the lives and property of British and French subjects and to maintain order. By the Convention of the 20th October, 1906, a Condominium was set up with a joint Court composed of British and French Judges and a neutral President : and an executive government consisting, for some purposes, of the British and French representatives in the Group acting in concert. For other purposes British and French nationals remain subject to the control only of their national authorities. The Convention of the 20th October, 1906, has been superseded by a Convention of the 6th August, 1914, which was ratified in March, 1922.

The British and French Resident Commissioners are subordinate to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the High Commissioner at Nouméa respectively.

The year 1925 was on the whole prosperous for the New Hebrides planter as the export figures show. The various products were disposed of at better prices than that of the previous year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

CONDOMINIUM REVENUE.

		1924.	1925.
		Francs.	Francs.
Post Office	.. ..	68,952·90	127,704·00
Port Dues	.. ..	23,092·48	33,968·00
Joint Court	.. ..	1,650·48	132·00
Import Duties	.. ..	608,492·86	966,610·00
Export Duties	.. ..	200,134·92	203,714·00
Radiotelegraph	.. ..	23,443·28	28,804·00
Miscellaneous	.. ..	18,958·16	59,782·00
Total Condominium			
Revenue	.. ..	Fcs.944,725·08	Fcs.1,420,714·00

EXPENDITURE.

(a) *Condominium.*

	1924.	1925.
	Francs.	Francs.
Joint Court	146,679·08	116,136·00
Constabulary	3,979·24	—
Post Office & Treasury	39,665·00	64,988·00
Public Works (Annual)	133,050·00	73,962·00
Public Works (Extraordinary)	85,365·00	207,718·00
Port and Harbour	7,915·92	9,470·00
Island Services	16,976·00	126,252·00
Medical	6,084·04	8,310·00
Customs	22,832·32	29,974·00
Telegraph & Telephone	82,081·64	83,122·00
Lands	60,733·70	66,840·00
Miscellaneous	81,380·86	1,721,440·00*
Total Condominium	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure ..	Frcs. 686,742·80	Frcs. 2,508,212·00

* A large part of this item is due to a transfer of funds in accordance with the New Hebrides Joint Financial Regulation No. 3 of 1925.

(b) *Services entirely British.**

	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments	4,114 19 3	4,188 10 1
Travelling	5,357 9 4	7,549 4 1
[1925-26 :—		
Govt. Yacht	£7,220 5 10	
Boat's Crew	328 18 3]	
Medical	312 0 0	325 0 0
Prison	— — —	— — —
Constabulary	1,753 4 2	1,763 15 0
Incidentals	2,062 11 11	2,296 13 1
Total Expenditure on		
Services exclusively	<hr/>	<hr/>
British	£13,600 4 8	£16,123 2 3

* Defrayed from funds provided from the Colonial Services Vote—Subhead D4. Certain casual receipts in respect of Miscellaneous Fees of Court, Office, etc., totalling approximately £532 in 1925-26, were received for transfer to the Exchequer.

Population.

The year's statistics show a small decrease in the number of non-native population under British jurisdiction, which totals 285 up to the 31st December, 1925. Those under the French flag for the same period number 3,039, of whom a large proportion were indentured Indo-Chinese coolies. This total represents an increase of 687 over the number under French jurisdiction in 1924. This increase was caused by further introduction of Indo-Chinese labourers. The number of French nationals, according to the figures in my possession, decreased by 91 during 1925.

A statement is appended giving details of the non-native population for the period under report.

RETURN OF NON-NATIVE POPULATION
ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

British.

<i>Description.</i>	<i>Adult Females and</i>		<i>Totals.</i>
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Children.</i>	
Nationals	113	119	232
Indo-Chinese :—			
Indentured Labourers ..	—	—	—
Foreign Subjects under			
National Regime :—			
European.. ..	14	13	27
Asiatic	26	—	26
Javanese	—	—	—
Totals	153	132	285

French.

<i>Description.</i>	<i>Adult Females and</i>		<i>Totals.</i>
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Children.</i>	
Nationals	262	388	650
Indo-Chinese :—			
Indentured Labourers ..	*	*	2,250*
Foreign Subjects under			
National Regime :—			
European.. ..	*	*	10*
Asiatic	*	*	74*
Javanese	*	*	55*
Totals	—	—	3,039

* Statistics do not show proportion of females and children, but these may be taken approximately at 25 per cent.

NATIVE POPULATION.

On this question nothing further can be added to the remarks of last year, as a complete system of native administration is not yet organised. Until this is done it is not practicable to obtain accurate records of all islands in the Group. By the establishment of a second Government District Agency on the island of Malekula, together with the appointment of a Native Medical Practitioner, an advance step has been taken which should prove of great value to the natives of this and neighbouring islands.

Currency, Banking, Etc.

The year opened with the French currency at an exchange rate of 87·17 to the £ sterling and closed at 127·30. The highest rate reached during the year was francs 131·70, and the lowest francs 87·17. The average for the year was francs 101·22.

There are no banking facilities in the Group; the majority of the French firms conduct their banking business with the Bank of Indo-China in Nouméa, New Caledonia.

Imports.

The value of goods of all kinds imported during 1925 has increased in comparison with the preceding year. This is accounted for by the increased shipping facilities to which reference is made elsewhere.

The comparative statement given below does not, however, reveal the position correctly, as the very large increase is in the main due to considerable purchases from Australia in sterling converted to francs at various depreciated rates of exchange.

<i>Value in</i>	<i>1924.</i>	<i>1925.</i>
French currency ..	Frcs. 7,929,327	Frcs. 22,004,232
British currency ..	£92,201	£217,863*

* Converted on the year's average of 101 francs to the £.

Of the total for the year 1925 the value of the British imports is estimated at francs 6,107,509 (£60,470) and that of the French at francs 15,896,723 (£157,393). The British share of the trade has considerably increased during 1925 owing partially to the introduction by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company of a steamer for the inter-island trade—S.S. "Makatea"—which has replaced the old auxiliary schooner "Motau" which was quite unsuited for the work.

Exports.

The quantities of the different articles of produce exported during the year remain approximately the same as for 1924 with the exception of copra which shows an increase which may be attributed to increased production—each year showing a greater number of coconut-bearing trees.

The total value shows an advance of 20 per cent. on the preceding year. This is partially due to better prices having been obtained—the market for most commodities having shown an upward tendency. It is also partially due to the fact that the amount of cotton “ginned” in the Group was twice that of the preceding year. The value of cotton in seed varied from £38 to £40 per ton and that of “ginned” cotton from £115 to £120 per ton.

A comparative statement of the quantities and values of the exports for 1925 and the preceding year is inserted below. The value of the British share for the year under report is estimated at £72,239 or approximately 25 per cent. of the total, and the French share at £235,162.

The bulk of the exports, both British and French, was copra—amounting in the case of the former to approximately 80 per cent. of the total and to 45 per cent. in the latter. The balance of the British exports was cocoa, wool, trocas, and arrowroot, and of the French cocoa, cotton, coffee and trocas, which accounted for 50 per cent., the remaining 5 per cent. being maize, hides, and sandalwood, etc.

The Messageries Maritimes supplied a two-monthly service to France via the Panama during the year. The bulk of the produce of the Group is shipped direct in these vessels, with the exception of cocoa which goes to Australia.

EXPORTS.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

<i>Article.</i>	1924.		1925.	
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £
Copra	6,792	125,652	7,370	162,154
Cotton	1,420	46,068	1,330	56,833
Cocoa	1,517	60,716	1,495	59,808
Coffee	281	7,110	285	10,111
Maize	307	1,844	193	1,357
Sandalwood	84	1,038	22	553
Wool	33	10,805	23	6,129
Miscellaneous	347	7,857	357	10,456
Totals		£261,090		£307,401

Shipping.

The tonnage entered at and cleared from Vila in 1925 shows an increase of nearly 50 per cent. on the preceding year. The following are the details:—

ENTERED TONNAGE.

				1925.	1924.
27	British	..	..	14,875	8,266
33	French	..	..	53,329	37,942
<hr/>				<hr/>	
60				68,204	46,208
<hr/>				<hr/>	

CLEARED TONNAGE.

				1925.	1924.
27	British	..	..	14,680	8,266
26	French	..	..	49,516	38,892
<hr/>				<hr/>	
53				64,196	47,158
<hr/>				<hr/>	

The French sloop "Cassiopee" visited the Group on two occasions during the period under report.

Criminal Statistics.

Communication has been established with several of the "Bush Tribes" in Santo and Malekula with good results, and it is noticeable that even among the least civilised they are becoming more inclined to bring their tribal troubles to the Government representatives to listen to and for advice. "Bush" murders have decreased.

Hospitals and Medical Treatment.

An advance has been made during the year under report towards improved medical treatment for the native population of the islands. Approval has been obtained for the employment of a Native Medical Practitioner from the Suva Medical School and for the fitting up of a dressing station on the island of Malekula where hitherto no medical treatment has been available. The station will be open early in 1926 and, should the result prove satisfactory, it is hoped to extend this organisation.

The Group was visited during the year by Dr. S. M. Lambert, of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, and an inquiry made into the disease Ankylostomiasis (hookworm). He visited many of the islands in the Group, and also obtained tests from the islands he was unable to visit. It was found that approximately 92 per cent. of the native population were infected in varying degrees with the hookworm parasite.

Dr. Patrick Buxton of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine accompanied Dr. Lambert on his tour of the Group, and investigated cases of filariasis and malaria. His report, which is to be made to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, is expected early next year.*

The Presbyterian Mission re-opened the hospital at Lenakel, Tanna, in July, and this institution is of great assistance to all the natives in the southern islands.

The Mission hospital on Iririki continued to do good work, as did the French Government hospital in Vila. The number of patients treated by the first-named during the year was 1,220, of which 396 were "in-patients." The number treated by the French Government hospital was 6,710, of which 2,750 were "in-patients." Of the total number treated in the French hospital, 5,150 were imported Indo-Chinese labourers. The number of Europeans treated in the two hospitals respectively were 57 and 415; deaths (European), nil and 7; native, 20 and 47. Among the latter were 32 Indo-Chinese.

The French hospital in the Second Canal (Santo) was also open during the year, but no statistics are available. This hospital is in charge of a French Government medical officer, who receives a small allowance from Condominium funds. Most of the cases treated are French plantation labourers.

The report of the Condominium Medical Officer (Major Médecin Pétel) on the general condition of the Group is attached hereto.

Report by the Condominium Medical Officer for 1925.

L'année 1925 a été très pluvieuse, les pluies ont duré jusqu'en Novembre, accompagnée de fréquents tremblements de terre.

L'état sanitaire c'est malgré cela maintenu très satisfaisant. Le nombre des entrées à l'hôpital a d'ailleurs été un peu moins élevé que l'année précédente.

Le plus grand nombre de malades traités ont été pour plaies, puludisme et dysenterie. Les affections pulmonaires ont été peu nombreuses. Il n'y a pas de l'épidémie.

Production and Natural Resources.

The principal products of the Group are copra, cotton, cocoa, and coffee, the first-mentioned by far the most important. Larger areas come into bearing each year as the trees mature, but it is not thought that any extensive areas have been put under coconuts since the date of the last report.

* See Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Vol. XIX, No. 8, February, 1926, pp. 420-454.

As to cotton, settlers, especially the French, are becoming increasingly alive to the importance of this easily-grown and well-paying product, and in recent years considerable areas have been planted up. During the year under review great strides have been made in this direction. A French cotton growing company has been established and is operating successfully on the island of Malekula; and an up-to-date cotton-ginning plant of 14 gins has been erected at Vila and is now working. This makes a total of three ginning plants for the New Hebrides, of which two are on the island of Epi, running 12 and 8 gins respectively. These plants are all owned and operated by French firms.

British holdings and output of cotton have decreased, owing to the difficulties in procuring labour.

The cultivation of cocoa is almost entirely a French monopoly, the acreage in British lands being practicably negligible. The French continue to expand their plantations.

There is no systematic cultivation of maize. It is usually grown as a catch-crop and forms valuable shade for newly-planted cotton.

Large tracts of valuable land are available in the New Hebrides. The existing plantations are all confined to the coast line—the interior, and, indeed, large areas of the coast as well, not yet having been touched. Given an adequate supply of labour, combined with the wonderful productiveness of the soil, there is no reason why the New Hebrides should not, from an agricultural point of view, become one of the most important Groups in the Pacific.

Wages and Cost of Living.

The cost of living for 1925 remained unaltered to any appreciable extent. Owing to the instability of the franc, prices in the stores were in a continual state of fluctuation and in many instances rises in the price of various commodities would not altogether appear warranted. On the whole, prices in general showed a tendency to increase.

Practically all perishable commodities are imported from Australia. The table given below represents a fair average of the price of commodities of daily consumption.

Butter, 2s. 9d. per lb.
Bacon, 2s. 6d. to 3s. per lb.
Eggs, 2s. 6d. per dozen.
Flour, 16s. per 50 lb. sack.
Tea, 3s. to 3s. 6d. per lb.
Potatoes, 15s. per 50 lb. sack.
Lard, 2s. per lb.
Sugar, 4d. per lb.
Tinned vegetables, 1s. 6d. to 2s. per tin.
Coffee, 3s. per lb.

Wages for casual labour are very high and 5s. to 6s. per diem is the average wage paid by local firms. The supply of labour for working vessels entering the port is becoming increasingly difficult owing to a continual demand for an increased wage. The average wage per month paid for domestic servants varies from 25s. to 30s. for a female and 35s. to 40s. for a male.

Rainfall Return of Four Stations in the New Hebrides for the Years 1921-25 inclusive.

<i>Year.</i>			Port Vila (Efate)	Dillons Bay Hog (Erramanga)	HarbourPort Paterson (East Santo) (Vanua Lava, Banks.)	
			17·44 S. 168·18 E.	18·47 S. 166·58 E.	15·05 S. 167·67 E.	13·50 S. 167·34 E.
1921	102·46	69·56	151·58	193·01
1922	65·08	63·95	136·60	208·66
1923	69·79	64·32	137·09	157·86
1924	77·84	47·17	135·78	139·88
1925	74·56	61·25	127·44	128·44
Mean Annual Rainfall	...		77·94	61·25	137·69	165·57
Mean of the five years.						
1914-18	76·99	74·34	119·97	105·49
1909-13	...		90·65	107·13	134·66	113·56

Radiotelegraph.

During 1925, 1,605 messages were despatched from Vila radio station, and 1,695 received. Of those sent, 364 were on Government account, and of those received 350. The cost of the Station was 82,088 francs. The operating staff numbers two, one British and one French. News bulletins are received daily from Suva radiotelegraph station, Fiji, and the station at Saigon, French Indo-China.

G. B. SMITH-REWSE,

Resident Commissioner.

British Residency,
Vila.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1239 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285 6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	1925, No. 1321 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 .. 1s.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332 9d.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 .. 6d.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1331 .. 6d.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 .. 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 .. 6d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 .. 3d.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1213 1s. 9d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 .. 6d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 .. 6d.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 .. 6d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 .. 1s. 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 .. 2s. 3d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1328 1s.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GRENADE, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 .. 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial, No. 19) .. 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15) .. 2s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-25 (Colonial, No. 24) 9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1335.

NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1926.

*(For Reports for 1924 and 1925, see Nos. 1245 and 1315 respectively
(Price 1s. 0d. each.)).*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927

Price 1s. 3d. Net.

58-30-0-26.

No. 1335.

NIGERIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1926.

I. Geographical and Historical Note.

The Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria is situated on the northern shores of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bounded on the west and north by French territory and on the east by the former German Colony of the Cameroons. Great Britain has received a mandate over a small portion of the Cameroons (31,150 square miles) which, for purposes of administration, has been placed under the Nigerian Government. The remainder of the Cameroons is administered by the French under a mandate, so that, for practical purposes, all the land frontiers of Nigeria march with French territory.

2. The area of Nigeria, including the mandated area of the Cameroons, is approximately 367,837 square miles (Southern Provinces and Colony 88,825 square miles; Northern Provinces 279,012 square miles, the increase of area of the Northern Provinces over last year's figures being caused by the transfer of Kentu District, an area of 3,210 square miles, from the Southern to the Northern Provinces), and it is thus larger than any British Dependency other than India and the self-Governing Dominions. It is more than three times the size of the United Kingdom. Along the entire coast-line runs a belt, from 10 to 60 miles in width, of dense mangrove forest and swamp, intersected by the branches of the Niger delta and other rivers, which are connected one with another by innumerable creeks, the whole constituting a continuous inland waterway from beyond the western boundary of Nigeria almost to the Cameroons. Behind this belt lie tropical forests, rich in oil-palm trees and valuable mahoganies. Further inland the forests become thinner and are succeeded by open ground covered with long grass and occasional clumps of trees. In the extreme north, where there is a very small rainfall and little vegetation, the desert is slowly but steadily encroaching. There are few mountains in the southern portion of Nigeria except along the eastern boundary, but north and east of the junction of the rivers Niger and Benue there is a large plateau from 2,000 to 6,000 ft. in height. The country is well watered by rivers, especially in the south. Besides the Niger and Benue, which during the rainy season are navigable by steamers as far as Jebba and Yola respectively, there are a number of important rivers of which the Cross River is the largest. Except for Lake Chad, on the extreme north-east frontier, there are no large lakes.

3. The population of Nigeria according to the latest returns is 18,502,322* (Southern Provinces and Colony, 8,461,671; Northern Provinces, 10,040,651)†, larger than that of any British Dependency except India. There are about 4,000 Europeans temporarily resident in Nigeria, chiefly in the employ of the Government, and of mercantile and mining companies. The country is not suited for European settlement. Of the native inhabitants the greater number are of pure negro race, but in the north there are Berber and negroid tribes. Of the former the Yorubas, Ibos, and Benis are the most important, and of the latter the Fulani, the Kanuri, and the Hausa-speaking tribes, generally called Hausas. The Yorubas occupy the south-west corner of Nigeria and from an early date possessed an organised government. The Benis are now a comparatively small tribe, but Benin was formerly a very powerful kingdom and its influence extended over a considerable area. The Ibos are a large unorganised tribe who occupy most of the land east of the lower Niger. The Kanuri occupy Bornu, in the north-east of Nigeri a kingdom which has survived for many centuries in spite of great vicissitudes. It was known to the Portuguese as early as the 15th century and to Arab geographers several centuries earlier. The Hausas occupy the greater portion of northern Nigeria and from an early date had attained to a fairly high level of civilisation. At the beginning of the 19th century the Hausa States were conquered by the Fulani, a nomad people who had settled in the towns and country of Hausaland and who, by their superior intelligence, had acquired great power and influence. The existing Hausa system of law and administration, based on the Koran, was retained, but Fulani dynasties were established in various states.

4. The coast of Nigeria first became known to Europe towards the end of the 15th century as the result of the visits of Portuguese explorers. Shortly afterwards the demand for negro labour in the American and West Indian colonies created an immense trade in slaves and for over three hundred years the west coast of Africa was visited in large numbers by the slave ships of all nations. At the beginning of the 19th century efforts were made to suppress the traffic, which was declared illegal, and a British naval squadron was stationed on the Coast to intercept the slave ships. With the decline of the slave trade the traffic in palm oil and other tropical products rapidly increased, and the visits of naval ships and, later, of the British Consul at Fernando Po, gave to the British a considerable prestige and influence among the tribes inhabiting the coast of Nigeria. In 1851 British support was given to an exiled King of Lagos, who, in return, pledged himself to abolish the slave trade in Lagos, which was at that time the chief slave

* Includes population of the mandated area of the Cameroons.

† Includes the transfer of 7,000 from the Southern to Northern Provinces on account of the transfer of Kentu District to the Northern Provinces.

market in West Africa. Finding himself powerless against the slave-dealing faction, his son ceded Lagos to the British in 1861 and the British Colony of Lagos came into being the following year.

5. By the exertions of Mungo Park (1796–1805), Captain Clapperton (1822–26), Richard Lander (1826–30), Doctor Bath (1850–1855) and numerous other explorers, most of whom lost their lives in the country, the course of the Niger and the existence of the Fulani kingdoms in the interior became known, and an attempt was made by Mr. Macgregor Laird and others to open up the interior to trade. In spite of the efforts of these pioneers, who were supported to a certain extent by the British Government, and philanthropists eager to strangle the slave trade by legitimate traffic, the early efforts were not successful, owing to the heavy mortality among the European crews of vessels ascending the river. A better knowledge of conditions, and the use of quinine as a prophylactic against malaria, made later operations more successful and before 1860 trade was established along the banks of the Rivers Niger and Benue. In 1879 the various British firms trading on these rivers were amalgamated, and in 1887 a charter was granted to the amalgamated companies which became known as the Royal Niger Company, Chartered and Limited. By this charter the Company became responsible for the government of the river basins and the whole of Hausaland and Bornu, but, in practice, its influence extended little beyond the banks of the rivers.

6. The Berlin Conference of 1885 had recognised the British claim to a protectorate over Nigeria, and that part of the country which was not included within the Lagos territories of the sphere of the Chartered Company was made into a separate administration under Foreign Office control and became known as the Oil Rivers Protectorate and later as the Niger Coast Protectorate.

7. Owing to the restrictions on trade caused by artificial boundaries and the virtual monopoly which the Niger Company exercised, to the inability of the Company's forces to restrain the slave-raiding propensities of the Fulani Chiefs, and to foreign aggression on the western frontiers, it became necessary for the British Government to assume a more direct control over the country. The Company's charter was accordingly revoked on the 1st January, 1900, and the northern portion of their territories became the Northern Nigeria Protectorate; the southern portion was added to the Niger Coast Protectorate and the whole was renamed the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. Both the Northern and Southern Protectorates were placed under Colonial Office control.

8. In 1898 an Imperial Force, recruited locally, but with British officers, was raised by Sir Frederick Lugard, and was later taken over by the Colonial Government. This force was

named the West African Frontier Force and the armed constabularies of the other West African Colonies and Protectorates were modelled on it. Soon after the establishment of the Northern Nigeria Protectorate these troops were used to subdue the Mohammedan rulers of the Hausa states and Bornu, who had persistently ignored the British requests for the cessation of slave-raiding and whose attitude was one of open hostility to an administration of whose power they had had no proof. As each in turn was conquered a new ruler was appointed who undertook to govern his country according to local law and tradition, but without slave-raiding and the extortion and inhuman cruelties which had marked the former regime. British Residents were stationed throughout the country and exercised a wholesome check on any tendency to relapse.

9. In the south there were fewer large states and the people on the whole were of a much lower standard of intelligence and development. On the lower reaches of the Benin River, a Jekri chief, named Nana, defied the Protectorate Government and dealt openly in slaves. He was attacked by a naval and military force and defeated in 1894 after severe fighting. In 1897 a peaceful mission to the King of Benin was massacred and another combined expedition was despatched: Benin was captured and was found to be full of the remains of human sacrifices, for which the city had long had an unpleasant reputation. In 1902 the Aro tribe was subdued.

10. While the remainder of the country was being opened up, the hinterland of Lagos was being added by cession to the territories originally ceded by the King of Lagos in 1861. In 1866 Lagos had been included in the West African Settlements and in 1874 it was united with the Gold Coast Colony. It became the separate Colony and Protectorate of Lagos in 1886.

11. In 1906 Lagos and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated and in 1914 Northern Nigeria was included and the whole country became the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

12. On the outbreak of war in 1914 the Nigeria Regiment (of the West African Frontier Force) took part in the campaign which resulted in the conquest of the neighbouring German Colony of the Cameroons, and a strong contingent of the regiment also fought in the East African campaign. On the whole the loyalty of the chiefs and people of Nigeria throughout the war was very marked, but there was a somewhat serious rising in Egbaland in 1918 which was quickly subdued.

II.—General Observations.

13. The main political divisions of Nigeria are the Colony of Nigeria, and two groups of Provinces, known as the Northern and Southern Provinces, which together form the Protectorate. The whole country is under the control of a Governor and

Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Lieutenant-Governors of the Northern and Southern Provinces and the Administrator of the Colony are responsible. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of a few of the senior officials. By Order in Council, dated the 21st of November, 1922, and entitled the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1922, the former bodies, known as the Nigerian Council and the Legislative Council, were abolished and a larger and more representative Legislative Council was substituted for them. This new Legislative Council consists of:—The Governor, as President; twenty-six Official Members; three elected Unofficial Members representing the municipal area of Lagos and one representing the municipal area of Calabar; and not more than fifteen nominated Unofficial Members. These fifteen are selected to include nominees of the chambers of commerce of Lagos, Port Harcourt, Calabar, and Kano, of the local chamber of mines, and of the banking and shipping interests, together with members representing African interests in parts of the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate which do not return elected representatives to the Legislative Council. This Council legislates only for the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate, and the Governor continues to legislate for the Northern Provinces of the Protectorate. The power of taxation in the Northern Provinces is left with the Governor and the scope of the Legislative Council in financial affairs is confined to the Colony and Southern Provinces, except that the sanction of the Council is required for all expenditure out of the funds and revenues of the Central Government which is incurred in the Northern Provinces. There is thus a measure of direct representation of the people by members elected by themselves to the Legislative Council.

14. The first elections for the unofficial members for Lagos and Calabar were held on the 20th of September, 1923, and aroused the keenest interest. The new Legislative Council was inaugurated by the Governor on the 31st of October, 1923.

15. The Protectorate (including the mandated territory of the Cameroons) is divided into twenty-two provinces, each under the immediate control of a Resident.

16. In the Northern Provinces the efficiency and co-operation of the leading Emirs—which were noted in the report for 1925—have been well maintained, and the past twelve months have everywhere shown evidence of an increasing desire on their part for administrative progress and economic development. The activities of the Native Administrations have hitherto been chiefly confined to road construction and improvement and to the encouragement of motor transport, but they are now rapidly learning to appreciate the need for more education and better sanitary conditions.

17. The number of the *Northern Provinces* (including a portion of the mandated territory of the Cameroons) has now been

reduced from twelve to eleven as the outcome of a rearrangement, in the light of modern experience, of the boundaries of most of the previous provinces ; a rearrangement which was foreshadowed in the 1925 Report* and which was carried out during the year. The main changes are that the former Nasarawa and Muri Provinces have been absorbed and a new Province (Plateau) has been formed. Two provinces which consist mainly of the former Munshi and Yola Provinces have been named the Benue and Adamawa Provinces respectively. The latter also absorbs the Kentu district from the Southern Provinces. Each province is under the immediate control of a Resident and the whole under the general administrative control of a Lieutenant-Governor. The proportion of the number of political officers on duty to the number of the native population is about one to one hundred thousand.

18. One of the outstanding events of the year under review was the journey undertaken by the Governor from Lagos to Lake Chad in March and April, this being the first occasion on which the entire distance had been traversed by motor transport. The route followed was *via* Ibadan, Ilorin, Bida, Zungeru, Kaduna, Jos, Bauchi, Darazo, Potiskum and Maiduguri. This visit followed that of Mr. Ormsby-Gore, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and his party in February and March. The Governor also toured the Benue region in July, visiting Makurdi, Ibi, Yola, Lokoja, and Idah. On this occasion he opened the Eastern Railway at Kafanchan on July 12th.

19. Beyond the rearrangement of provinces referred to above, there have been no changes in the political administration of the Northern Provinces during the course of the year. A conference of residents was held at Kaduna in September at which many important questions of administration were discussed. It is proposed to hold a similar conference every year.

20. Serious disturbances in the Northern Provinces have been few. The assistance of military patrols has been required in the Mubi and Uba districts of the Adamawa Province. In the Mubi district a patrol was sent out against the Jilvu pagans in March in order to bring them under effective administrative control. During September the Tuku pagans of the Uba district treacherously attacked an Assistant District Officer, who had a narrow escape. A military patrol was sent out and, after a few weeks, the pagans were brought to submission. There was no loss of life in either case. Collective punishment fines were imposed on the villages of East Tangale (Bauchi Province) and Jibbem (Plateau Province) for crimes involving communal responsibility. Two ringleaders of the 1925 Bajeddi rising in the Kabba Province, which was mentioned in the 1925 report, were arrested and convicted in February.

* No. 1315 in the Colonial Annual Reports Series.

21. In the Plateau Province, the North Mada district has been declared to be no longer an "unsettled" area; it is still, however, closed to prospecting. The Mama, South Mada and Shendam districts remained "unsettled" and closed to prospecting, but the Shendam district was opened on the 1st of February, 1927. Owing to the prevalence of trypanosomiasis in the Jemaa, Ayu, and Ninzam districts, these areas have been declared closed to further prospecting, but work therein held under exclusive prospecting licences, mining rights or mining leases has not been affected by this declaration.

22. A boundary dispute between the Ngbos of Abakaliki Division of the Ogoja Province and Ajala of Idoma Division of the Benue Province has been satisfactorily dealt with. The Ilorin-Oyo-Ondo boundaries were finally settled on June 30th, and the fresh delimitation of the whole boundary between the Northern and Southern Provinces was completed with the exception of two small portions.

23. Compared with the improvement shown last year, trade has been disappointing during 1926. There was a decrease in the amount of groundnuts railed. In Sokoto the amount of cotton seed purchased was nearly three times as much as last year. Owing, however, to the abnormally early cessation of the rains it is feared that the prospects of the current cotton season are precarious and that the crop will not come up to expectations. The heavy fall in the prices of cotton makes the position more serious. The new ginnery at Gusau has been completed and others are being erected by the British Cotton Growing Association at Karadua and Funtua. The Empire Cotton Growing Corporation has opened a seed farm at Daudawa which has made good progress. Groundnut prospects were fair, but the grain crops generally were below the average.

24. The experiments in the Zaria Province with the Guy-Roadless and Burford-Kegresse types of flexible motor tractors, referred to in the 1925 report, have proved fairly successful, and it is intended to test them during the coming season with trailers. The results of the trials have so far shown that, while there are still faults of design and construction which will have to be remedied before this new type of mechanical transport is finally proved, there is every reason to believe that they will eventually be of value in helping to solve the transport problem.

25. The strong financial position of the Native Treasuries, as previously reported, was maintained in 1925-26. The balances carried forward on the 31st March, 1926, including sums invested in securities (£465,558) amounted to £1,275,881. The revenue was increased by £60,549. While this represents in part the normal increase due to revision of standing assessments and to the assessment of new areas it also includes £26,267 which accrued to the Native Administrations as profits on the sale and re-investment

of securities. An increase on the expenditure side is accounted for mainly by appropriations for works of public utility and by the more adequate remuneration of the personnel.

26. During his visit to the Sokoto Province in February, Mr. Ormsby-Gore opened the Shalla Irrigation Canal. The Agricultural Department started an experimental farm in January in connection with this scheme, and now, with their help, as much land as possible is being prepared at the urgent request of the people. The proposed water supply scheme for Kano is under reference to the home experts with a view to the adoption of a scheme to utilise the Challawa river which, of the two alternatives hitherto explored, is the less expensive.

27. There have been no serious outbreaks of epidemic disease during the year. Cerebro-spinal meningitis, which caused heavy mortality in 1925, has occurred only in small outbreaks. Relapsing fever has also subsided to a great extent, though there was a heavy outbreak at Keana in the Lafia Emirate of the Benue Province. This has now been subdued. There was also a small-pox epidemic in the Zaria Province during the dry season 1925-26. The tsetse-fly investigation work at Sherifuri continues. Mr. Oldrieve, Secretary of the Empire Leprosy Relief Association, visited the Northern Provinces during January and February, and inspected the leper settlements at Kano, Sokoto and Maiduguri.

28. Rinderpest and pleuro-pneumonia have continued to take a serious toll among cattle, especially in the Bauchi and Zaria Provinces. The laboratory at Vom has, however, been actively engaged in the manufacture of anti-rinderpest serum, and the immunisation campaign against rinderpest, inaugurated during the latter part of 1925 at Maidontoro in the Plateau Province, has been continued with marked success. Fulani cattle owners are most anxious to have their cattle immunised and travel from distant places to Maidontoro for that purpose. Anti-rinderpest work on a large scale has been considered, and next year it is expected to enlarge the laboratory at Vom and to establish two immunisation camps in the Bauchi Province. Research work at the laboratory has also produced a vaccine for conferring immunity against pleuro-pneumonia, and tests of this vaccine give indications that it is likely to be efficacious.

29. The Police Force continues to maintain a high standard of efficiency. As a result of the regrouping of the Northern Provinces considerable changes were made in the dispositions of the provincial police detachments, and the re-arrangement has caused a more economical distribution of the Force. Escorts and guards have been furnished to political officers touring in the more backward and inaccessible parts of the country.

30. Interesting events have been the visit of representatives of the British Instructional Film Company, from January to May, to make a film story of Nigerian life, and the flight of two French

seaplanes to the river Niger at Lokoja and along the Benue Valley in November *en route* to Madagascar. One machine came down near Lokoja, damaged the engine and was unable to continue the journey. The other arrived safely at Madagascar.

31. The following important chiefs have died during the year :—

Usuman, Emir of Kano.

Bello, Emir of Bida.

Mohammadu, Emir of Nasarawa.

Abdulahi, Emir of Lafia.

Abubakr, Emir of Agaie.

Atabo, Attah of Idah.

Alhaj Muhammadu, Emir of Misau, has retired on account of ill-health after holding office for twenty-three years during which he proved himself a most loyal chief. Abdulahi, Emir of Jemaa, resigned his appointment in November.

32. The Governor, during his tour in the Benue region in July, installed the following Chiefs :—

Muhaman Bello, Emir of Yola, now known as the Lamido of Adamawa.

Muhamadu, Emir of Lafia.

Obanje Ocheje, Attah of Idah.

33. The Emir of Biu has been awarded the King's Medal for Chiefs, which was presented to him by the Lieutenant-Governor.

34. Immigration from French territory into the Adamawa Province has increased. Relations with the French authorities have been excellent.

35. In the *Southern Provinces* there have been no serious political disturbances during the year under review.

36. The Governor visited each one of the Southern Provinces during the year. During the year the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Ormsby-Gore, and party made an extended tour of the Southern Provinces, and in so far as the time available allowed, met representatives of all classes of the community.

37. In the Colony the political atmosphere in Lagos has quieted down considerably. On Empire Day an organised attack was made on the Eleko as he was returning from the Race Course. A number of arrests were made and eleven persons were convicted. Since then by his patience and tact the Eleko has consolidated his position considerably and has gained many adherents from among those who were formerly his most bitter opponents.

38. The long outstanding Apapa land case was settled during the year, and compensation was distributed as ordered by the Court. A land dispute in the Epe District, which has long been a source of contention between the Ijebus and the people of Ejirin, has also been settled by the Supreme Court.

39. The Council of the Egba Division in Abeokuta Province has been enlarged to permit of wider representation of town wards.

40. A revision of the Egba-Ibadan boundary has been approved, and both races seem satisfied with the adjustment made.

41. Local administration has been inaugurated in the Asaba Division of Benin Province, hitherto administered by direct rule.

42. It was found necessary to depose Adam Ephraim Duke from his position as Obon of Calabar and to relieve him of his appointment as a Native Authority as a result of his persistent attitude of obstruction to Government authority and policy.

43. Adenuga, the new Awujale of Ijebu Ode, who succeeded Ademolu last year, was installed by the Governor in June.

44. A serious recrudescence of plague broke out in the Ijebu Province in March. The outbreak reached its height at the beginning of September, and, thanks to the energetic methods taken to combat it, from that time gradually decreased.

45. A purely local disturbance was caused in Owo in the Ondo Province on the election of Amaka as Ojomo of Owo. Faleyimu, a relative of the late Ojomo, seized the insignia of office and rioting broke out, which was speedily quelled by the Police.

46. The Igbeagu area in Ogoja Province, which was declared a Proclaimed Area in 1925, reverted to its ordinary status in March last.

47. A short-lived strike took place at Enugu in July, when the tub boys at the colliery came out on strike for higher wages; all returned to work within three days of the commencement of the strike.

48. The Headquarters of the Owerri Province were moved from Owerri to Port Harcourt in June.

49. An extension to the Native Hospital, more extensive Rest House accommodation, and permanent Police Barracks are among the buildings completed by the Public Works Department at Port Harcourt during the year.

50. A further section of the boundary between Ilorin and Oyo has been reviewed, and a readjustment agreed to by the Emir of Ilorin and the Alafin of Oyo has been approved by the Governor and provisionally demarcated. The Ibadan-Ijebu boundary has been submitted to arbitration.

51. Two cases of yellow fever occurred in the European community at Ibadan and Oshogbo, both of which unfortunately proved fatal.

52. In the Cameroons Province the Native Authorities have made good progress in local administration, and the administration of justice has been satisfactory.

53. In January and February certain recalcitrant villages of the Ngi and Ngonu tribal areas of the Bamenda Division were visited by a strong police escort. The escort met with some opposition, but succeeded without loss of life in arresting and bringing to trial a number of criminals. Of these, fourteen were convicted of slave dealing, three of serious assault, one of murder and one of attempted murder

54. A very considerable increase in the quantities of rubber and dried bananas exported from the Cameroons plantations is reported.

55. *Public Health.* There has been a notable absence of epidemics of relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis and smallpox such as occurred during previous years. The only exception being Ondo Province and Keana in Benin Province, where moderate outbreaks of relapsing fever occurred during the year.

56. During the year cases of yellow fever were reported from Warri, Oshogbo, and Lagos in the Southern Provinces. The Rockefeller Yellow Fever Commission, now instituted at Yaba, Lagos, provided Noguchi protective vaccine, and all Europeans who desired were vaccinated. A special effort has been made to organise anti-mosquito measures. In Lagos the numerous small craft plying in the harbour and creeks have been subjected to special attention, as they have been found to provide ready breeding places for stegomyia.

57. Throughout the year plague continued epidemic in the town of Lagos and in the Province of Ijebu-Ode. In Ijebu on the mainland, the chief centre for plague is the town of Ijebu-Ode, but cases have been reported from numerous other towns in that province. In Lagos the number of cases of plague showed a short rise in March, and from the beginning of July there was a gradual rise which became more pronounced during October. From the latter part of October to the end of the year there was a very decided fall in the numbers. This rise and fall was accompanied by a similar rise and fall in the percentage of rats found to be suffering from plague. The majority of the cases were of the bubonic or septicaemic type, but a few patches of primary pneumonic cases occurred. In one of these the Medical Department lost a European surgeon and two African nurses, all infected from the same patient.

58. In May the party of medical men organised by the League of Nations to take part in a tour of the West African colonies arrived in Lagos. Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Guatemala, South Africa, and Britain appointed medical men to take part in this study tour. Sir Edward Thornton, K.B.E., who was appointed by the South African Government to take part in the study tour, at the request of the Nigerian Government and with the permission of the Secretary of State and the South African

Government, revisited Nigeria after the completion of the study tour in June and July, to examine the plague situation and to report on the most effective methods of dealing with it.

As a result of his report, a special plague staff has been appointed to work under the control of Dr. W. Allan, Senior Sanitary Officer of the Sanitary Branch of the Medical Department. A special R.A.M.C. staff consisting of two majors and two captains have been brought out to Nigeria and the European sanitary inspector staff has been increased by thirty-two R.A.M.C. non-commissioned officers and privates. These are all employed in the anti-plague measures now being carried out in Lagos and Ijebu Province.

59. Vaccination continues to be actively pushed as a preventive against smallpox. The percentage of successful vaccinations is about sixty-four.

60. Quinine as a prophylactic against malaria has been distributed, particularly in the Central Province.

61. The work on the investigation of the tsetse-fly and trypanosomiasis has continued throughout the year in the Northern Provinces. The centre of operations is at Sherifuri, in Kano Province. In addition to clearing of bush and thickets near pools and along the banks of rivers, experiments in late burning of the bush were carried out. As the effect of the first experiment in late bush burning on the prevalence of the fly was inconclusive, further experiments will be carried out next dry season.

III.—Government Finances.

62. The revenue and expenditure for the past five years are as follows :—

		<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Expenditure on Loan Works.</i>
		£	£	£
1921-22	..	4,869,220	6,553,553	1,676,786
1922-23	..	5,505,465	5,410,983	2,157,650
1923-24	..	6,260,561	5,501,242	1,900,170
1924-25	..	6,944,220	5,768,715	1,375,210
1925-26	..	8,268,928	6,583,167	1,183,728

63. The revenue and expenditure for the six months April to September, 1926, amounted to £3,545,864 and £4,106,895 respectively. Included in the expenditure is £556,380 advanced for loan works, to be subsequently recovered from loan funds. From figures recently estimated it is anticipated that the revenue for the current year will fall short of the 1925-26 figures by approximately £800,000, while the anticipated expenditure figures show an increase of approximately £1,000,000 over the figures of the last financial year.

64. The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st March, 1926, was £4,379,441. To this should be added £1,545,159 advanced from revenue for loan works and recoverable from the second instalment of the 1923 loan to be raised shortly, making a true surplus of £5,924,600 on 31st March, 1926. The public debt at 31st March, 1926, was £19,309,209 and the accumulated sinking fund amounted to £1,236,350.

65. The various Native Administrations have their own estimates of revenue and expenditure, deriving their revenue mainly from their share (usually 50 per cent.) of the native direct taxes.

The surplus funds of the Native Administrations are no longer deposited with the Government at interest. The Native Administrations of the Southern Provinces have their surplus funds invested locally with the banks, but those of the Northern Provinces are to a large extent invested through the Crown Agents. These investments no longer appear in the Colony's balance sheet. Silver coin to the value of £331,000 was withdrawn from circulation during the year ended 31st March, 1926, and £352,000 was shipped to the United Kingdom to be melted down. The alloy coin in circulation on the same date was about £5,517,000, and the total currency in circulation at 31st March, 1926, was estimated at £6,929,000.

IV.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

66. *Trade*.—The total value of the trade of Nigeria (including specie) during the year was as follows :—

				£
Import	..	..	..	13,287,000
Export	..	..	..	17,286,000
				<u>£30,573,000</u>

a decrease of approximately two and a-half million sterling on the trade of the previous year. The value of the transit trade (i.e., goods passing through the inland waters of Nigeria to and from French territory) was slightly over £20,000, a decrease of over £56,000.

67. Commercial imports, excluding specie, were valued at £12,456,000, a decrease of over 7 per cent., compared with the previous year; while commercial exports at £16,888,000 showed a slight increase. Imports of specie amounted to £830,000, compared with nearly one and a-half million in the previous year, whereas exports were approximately the same at £397,000.

68. The United Kingdom accounted for 53·7 per cent. of the total trade compared with 65 per cent. for the previous year, imports at 60 per cent. showing a decline of 14 per cent., and exports of 47 per cent., a decline of 9 per cent. The United States of America with 6·5 per cent. of the trade showed a slight decrease, but Germany with 14 per cent. showed a gain of over 3 per cent.

69. Exports of palm oil, at approximately 113,000 tons, are below the figures for 1925 and 1924. Prices were fairly steady throughout the year, and ranged from £22 to £28 per ton, but the average throughout the year was low and seldom rose higher than £23 10s. per ton.

70. Shipments of palm kernels during 1926 amounted to over 248,000 tons. There were no great fluctuation in prices, which varied between £13 and £15 per ton. The cocoa shipments were greater than any year except 1925, being over 39,000 tons. The year opened with prices at £30 per ton, and in December they had risen to £52 per ton.

71. Exports of ground-nuts amounted to over 115,000 tons, almost double the quantity exported in the best year prior to 1925. Prices were uniformly low, and, except for a rise in June to £14 10s. per ton, the average for the year was £11 per ton. It is interesting to note that for the first time in the history of Nigeria the exports of ground-nuts have exceeded the exports of palm oil.

72. Shipments of cotton lint amounted to over 179,000 cwt. or over 46,000 cwt. more than the quantity exported in the record year of 1925. The British cotton growing interests are to be congratulated on the steady expansion recorded in the face of bumper crops all over the world, and the consequent fall in price.

73. The quantity of tin ore exported during the year reached the record figure of 10,558 tons, or more than a thousand tons in excess of the best previous record.

74. The output from the Government-owned Udi coalfields for the year 1926 is estimated to reach 323,827 tons. The main coal seam (No. 3) is worked by two separately ventilated mines, one at Enugu, the other at Iva Valley. The average thickness of the seam is about 4 ft. 8 in. Each mine has its own sidings connecting with the main line of the Eastern Railway, which runs from Port Harcourt to Kaduna. The coal is drawn out of the mines by four main haulage gears, three steam-driven and one electrically-driven, and ventilation is maintained by steam-driven fans. At Udi mine there are two large auxiliary underground electric haulages, and one small one; small electric pumps are also installed. It is hoped that electric power will be available at Iva mine in the course of a few months. The coal is semi-bituminous in nature and of good quality. The volatile percentage is high and the coal does not clinker. Its specific gravity is 1.28.

75. *Agriculture.*—As mentioned above, the prices for palm oil and kernels have been on the whole rather lower than last year. The exports are a little smaller than last year, but the differences are not great, and are not believed to be of any great significance.

76. The production of cocoa for the season 1925-26 amounted to over 39,000 tons, as against 36,600 in 1924-25. It is evident that the crop in the current season 1926-27 will be considerably larger than last year, and estimates vary from 42,000 tons to 45,000 tons. There is little doubt that there is a general average increase of something like 1,500 or 2,000 tons per annum occurring at present. Apart from this, the considerable increase this year is mainly due to a more favourable season than last year. An important feature of the last two seasons has been the progress in the Ondo province and some parts of the Benin province. In those parts cocoa trees were planted long ago, but, owing to lack of transport facilities and a competitive market, the produce was either unsaleable or saleable at a very low price. During the last year or two the Agricultural Department, by organising the disposal of the produce so as to enable motor transport to be used, have been able to obtain fair prices for the cocoa. The quantities exported in these provinces are not great as yet, but the result of the changes is that cocoa planting is now extending rapidly, whereas it is stated that in the past the tendency was to cut out rather than to plant. The price has risen during the season from £30-£52 per ton as against £28 10s. in the season 1925-26. These high prices are stimulating planting of cocoa throughout the "cocoa areas."

77. The inspection of produce was taken over on April 1st by the Agricultural Department, under arrangements which provide for more European supervision, and under slightly changed regulations. Before the end of the year the arrangements were working satisfactorily, and all reports agree as to the satisfactory nature of the results. It is especially fortunate that the scheme was started this year, for past experience has shown that a high price for cocoa would always be accompanied by an exceptionally low level of quality.

78. It is unfortunately impossible to obtain any complete figures of the trade in locally produced kola-nuts; but there is no doubt that this production has increased from quite insignificant proportions five years ago to a volume which is now certainly very considerable, and which is tentatively estimated at not less than 1,500 tons, worth about £150,000. The annual import is generally between 6,000 and 8,000 tons, and there is no evidence that it is decreasing, for the lower prices of recent years have caused increased consumption. A considerable increase in the local production of kola-nuts must be anticipated during the next ten years.

79. The climatic conditions in the Northern Provinces this season have been unfavourable, especially for the cotton and guinea-corn crops, which are particularly dependent on the late rains. The total rainfall at most places was not greatly below normal, and in some places was even normal. But everywhere the rains ceased unusually early and, indeed, in many places,

earlier than in any year since records were started at the beginning of the century. The guinea-corn crop was very variable, and, as a result of variations in the date of the last rain, there were great differences between the crops in places only a few miles apart. Fortunately the early crop of "spike millet" was satisfactory. On the whole the deficiency is not more than can be made up by depleting the annual "carry over." There seems to be no fear of anything approaching famine conditions this year, but another bad season next year, if such should occur, may cause a serious situation to arise.

80. The export of ground-nuts in the season 1925-26 amounted to 115,000 tons, as against 132,000 in 1924-25. During the current season, 1926-27, some 60,000 tons has been purchased by the end of the calendar year. But the trade has fallen off unusually quickly and a much smaller export than last year must be anticipated, unless there is a considerable rise in the export price during the next few weeks. Of that there seems little hope. The smaller export anticipated this current season is not so much due to a smaller crop as to a lower price. The ground-nut crop is a comparatively early one, and the yield this year seems to be only a little below normal. The differences in the price greatly affect the quantity of ground-nuts brought in from distant places.

81. The export of American cotton from the Northern Provinces for the season 1925-26 amounted to 37,000 bales, which with the Southern Nigerian crop of indigenous cotton, brought the total export up to 48,000 bales. The corresponding figures in the previous year, 1924-25, were 28,000 bales of American cotton and 39,000 total. In the current season, an export of American cotton in the Northern Provinces of some 25,000 bales, and a greatly reduced quantity of indigenous cotton, are all that can be anticipated. The reason for this reduction in the export is primarily the unfavourable season in the north, and secondarily the low prices, which, in spite of the remission of the railway freight on lint, amounts to only 1½d. for first-grade American seed-cotton and ¾d. for first-grade "Indigenous" at railway stations.

82. Although the American cotton is less dependent on the late rains than the native cottons in the Northern Provinces, yet it is always realised that the yield is very dependent on them. In the parts of the Zaria province where the American cotton has been produced for a number of years, many good crops are to be seen this year wherever the land is good and the planting early enough. But in the more distant places, where the people have only taken to cotton growing for export during the last year or two, the crops are generally very poor. In these areas, moreover, the price is so much reduced on account of the cost of transport that only 1½d. or 1¼d. can be offered. A considerable proportion of the small production is thus being absorbed by the demand for cotton for local weaving and by the export by road to French territory.

V.—Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

83. *Land*.—In the Southern Provinces all land is not under the control of the Governor in the same way as is the case in the Northern Provinces, but land may not be leased to a non-native except with the consent of the Governor. Large tracts suitable for agriculture are available, but it is essential that anyone who desires to cultivate rubber or any other permanent crop should first visit Nigeria and ascertain the actual conditions which obtain. A new Lands Department for Nigeria is being formed in order to deal with land questions.

84. *Forestry*.—The system of exploiting timber is by selection fellings subject to a minimum girth limit. During the year, good quality mahogany logs have been in demand and prices were firm, lower and inferior grades, of which large quantities were shipped, realised poor prices and there was little demand for them.

85. In the Northern and Eastern Provinces no additions have been made to the total areas of reserved forests, but an increase of 386 square miles is reported from the Western Provinces, bringing the total reserved areas for the whole of Nigeria up to slightly over 7,037 square miles. In addition to this, further proposed reserves await settlement in the Northern Provinces, whilst proposals covering over 3,000 square miles in the Eastern Provinces have been put forward and are being dealt with as rapidly as possible.

86. Planting operations in connection with the establishment of timber and fuel plantations were continued and have given some very encouraging results, especially in the Eastern Provinces, where, at Enugu and Udi, exotics such as various species of *Eucalyptus* and *Albizia Mollucana* have shown phenomenal growth, attaining in some cases a height of 20 ft. in eighteen months. *Casuarina* and *Cedrela Hexicana* are also doing well in this respect, whilst interesting information is to hand that both Abura and Iroko, which are included amongst our most valuable timber trees, have been successfully grown from cuttings, and that the upland variety of the Opepe (*Sarcocephalus Sp.*) is doing well in a small plantation at Nsukka. The Iroko plantations at Enugu are still free of attacks from the Iroko gall insects. Approximately 100 acres of plantations, consisting chiefly of *Dalbergia*, *Cassia* and Wattle, have been added to those in the Northern Provinces.

The older plantations at Olokemeji and Mamu, in the Western Provinces charge, having attained the age when they should be heavily thinned, arrangements are being made to undertake the necessary operations this dry season. Incidentally it may be remarked that many of the teak poles have reached sufficient dimensions to yield scantlings free of sap wood of the following

sizes, 12 ft. \times 4 in. \times 4 in. ; 12 ft. \times 4 in. \times 3 in. and 12 ft. \times 4 in. \times 2 in. The question of procuring a portable sawmill plant for the purpose of converting the poles into scantlings is at present under consideration.

87. The export trade in good quality mahogany, cedar and "walnut" woods is as brisk as ever; sixty licences for timber areas being held in the Western Provinces alone, whilst several others are in course of preparation. There has been a 20 per cent. increase in the number of trees felled for local use in the Onitsha Province.

88. An officer of this Department has lately been seconded for work on tsetse fly control with a view to learning the best methods of dealing with the problem in the case of those forest reserves which happen to be situated in the vicinity of populated centres.

89. Early in the year, no doubt stimulated by the rise in price, a considerable number of permits to tap rubber were taken out. In the past there has been a small trade in gum arabic in the Northern Provinces, and latterly enquiries have been received regarding this product. There appears to be no reason why, in view of improving transport facilities and if the merchants pay more attention to grading, a flourishing trade in this product should not be built up in the Northern Provinces. The gum, so far as can be ascertained at present, is precisely the same as that shipped from the Soudan and is obtained from the same *Acacia*. It is hoped that it may be possible to secure for a time the services of an officer with a knowledge of the gum trade in the Soudan, so that he can inspect, advise and report on the situation and prospects.

90. *Mining*.—During the year there were about seventy-five companies and sixty-nine individual workers operating on tin; there was also one company winning galena, while another company and two individuals have been engaged in prospecting for this mineral. In addition, there were two individuals and one company operating on gold. The gold won only amounted to some 140 ounces, which denotes that, unless new deposits are discovered, this form of mining is practically at a standstill. As a set-off against this, however, it is satisfactory to record that about 240 tons of silver-bearing galena were won from the Ameka mine in the Southern Provinces, and, as several promising deposits in the Northern Provinces have been prospected, there are indications that lead mining may develop into an important industry, provided that transport facilities are sufficiently extended.

91. The output of tin ore was approximately 10,600 tons, while the amount exported was 10,558 tons, having a value estimated at £2,217,046. The quarterly price of tin, on which royalty is calculated, varied from £273 18s. 9d. to £315 15s. per

ton, the latter being the figure for October, and as the price shows signs of remaining at a high level, in view of the increasing demand for the metal, the prospects of the industry are very encouraging.

92. Partly as the result of these favourable conditions and partly owing to the reduction in the price of Udi coal following the completion of the Eastern Railway, the use of machinery on the tin mines is largely on the increase. Thus a large suction-cutter dredge was brought into service by one company, while several high-capacity steam shovels and a drag-line excavator are on order to two other companies and will soon be in process of erection ; in addition, more gravel-pumps and other forms of machinery are being rapidly brought into use.

93. The success attending the installation of the Kwall Falls Power Scheme has led to an application for the control of the Kurra Falls, which are also situated on the western margin of the Bauchi Plateau and about twenty-five miles to the south of those at Kwall.

94. The number of natives employed on the tin mines amounted to approximately 29,200, but in spite of the increased use of machinery the demand for labour still continues to be in excess of the supply, which serves to show how the industry has expanded.

95. As the mining operations extend, however, so do the opportunities for accidents, and increased supervision will be required accordingly. The great majority of the accidents that have so far occurred have, fortunately, been on a small scale, but that there is always the possibility of the more serious type happening is shown by the fact that during the year a fall of earth took place in one of the mines involving the loss of no less than twenty-eight lives.

96. The Geological Survey continued its investigations in both the Northern and Southern Provinces. In the north work was carried on in Zaria and Kano Provinces, together with a general revision of the Plateau Tinfields and the adjoining portions of Bauchi and Zaria Provinces. This brings to a conclusion the preliminary examination of the tinfields ; and it is not proposed to carry out any further work there till more accurate topographical maps are available. A preliminary examination was made of the new coalfield near Dekina, and enough has been done to show that it is of considerable importance. In the south work was continued on the extension of the coalfield westwards towards the Niger, attention being mainly directed towards the younger and more southerly beds. A bulletin on the geology of the Southern Plateau Tinfields was published in the course of the year, as well as an Occasional Paper on " Stone Implements of Palæolithic and Neolithic Age from Nigeria." A bulletin on " Eocene Fish Teeth from Southern Nigeria " was handed to the publishers before the end of the year, and a bulletin on the

geology of the Zaria and Kano Tinfields was prepared for the press. Arrangements were made for the publication of an Occasional Paper on "Fish Spines from Ameki" during 1927, when it is proposed to publish also a geological map of the whole tinfield on the scale of 1 : 250,000.

97. *Fisheries*.—The rivers and creeks teem with fish, and a large number of persons are employed in fishing, chiefly for local consumption. Small quantities of fish are crudely cured and traded with the towns distant from the river, where this form of food is highly prized. There is very little sea-fishing. Before the war a steam trawler was working off Lagos and a large quantity of fish of excellent quality was obtained.

98. *Manufactures*.—With the exception of a soap factory at Apapa, there are no manufactures in Nigeria on a commercial scale. Earthenware and brassware are made for local use and for sale as curios. Leather is worked, and a certain amount of cloth is woven from locally-grown cotton. The produce of the country is exported almost entirely in a raw state, such little preparation as is necessary being done by hand.

VI.—Banks.

99. Banking interests are represented in Nigeria by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, which was established in 1894, and by the Colonial (now Barclays) Bank which extended its operations to Nigeria in 1917. Both banks undertake all kinds of banking business.

100. A Government savings bank is worked and controlled by the Posts and Telegraphs Department, but very little advantage is taken of the facilities for the purposes of thrift. Savings bank business is also transacted by the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial (now Barclays) Bank.

VII.—Legislation.

101. The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance, 1926 (No. 1 of 1926) gives effect to the draft Convention on bills of lading agreed to at the International Maritime Conference and committees of the Conference in 1922 and 1923, and it follows *mutatis mutandis* the form of the Imperial Statute 14 and 15, Geo. V, Cap. 22.

102. The Profiteering (Rent) (Repeal) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 2 of 1926) repeals Chapter 92 of the Laws of Nigeria which was enacted as emergency legislation during the war.

103. The Agriculture Ordinance, 1926 (No. 4 of 1926) repeals Chapter 96 of the Laws of Nigeria and substitutes other provisions giving wider powers in respect of the control of the preparation and export of agricultural produce.

104. The Registration of Business Names Ordinance, 1926 (No. 5 of 1926) provides for the registration of firms and persons carrying on business under business names and aims at preventing the use of fictitious trading names by insolvent and irresponsible persons with the object of obtaining credit.

105. The Trading with the Enemy (Repeal) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 8 of 1926) repeals Chapter 160 of the Laws in order to conform with the provisions of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and Germany signed in London on the 2nd December, 1924, to which Nigeria is to adhere.

106. The Education (Northern Provinces) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926) repeals the Education Ordinance (Chapter 65 of the Laws) in so far as the provisions thereof relate to the Northern Provinces and re-enacts it in such forms that it relates to the Northern Provinces only (including those portions of the British Cameroons included in the Northern Provinces).

107. The Education (Colony and Southern Provinces) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 15 of 1926) repeals the Education Ordinance (Cap. 65) in so far as the provisions thereof relate to the Colony and the Southern Provinces, and makes better provision in regard to education therein.

108. The Quarantine Ordinance, 1926 (No. 18 of 1926) repeals Chapter 54 of the Laws and re-enacts it giving clearer provisions in regard to the imposition of quarantine and other steps to combat dangerous infectious diseases.

109. The Harbour Dues Ordinance, 1926 (No. 20 of 1926) repeals Chapter 101 of the Laws and substitutes similar provisions applying both to Lagos and Port Harcourt.

VIII.—Education.

110. Education in the Northern Provinces is gaining ground steadily, and every encouragement is being given to the inauguration of small elementary schools in all Emirates. The full demand cannot be met owing to shortage of European staff, as Government continues to follow the policy of refusing to open schools to which adequate supervision by European officers of the Department cannot be given. Twelve new schools have been opened. The European staff is six under strength, two officers having been permanently invalided from the service and a third having been promoted to the Education Department of the Southern Provinces. The appointment of one Superintendent of Arts and Crafts has been terminated and four new appointments have been made.

111. The problem of supplying an adequate staff of native teachers is being dealt with effectively, if slowly, at Katsina. At the Training College for Mohammedan teachers there, fifty-seven students are in residence. In March last the first batch of fourteen left after completing the course; these men have returned as

teachers in primary schools in the Provinces which paid for their training, and all are favourably reported on. It may be confidently anticipated that the general level of attainment of students leaving the College will improve yearly for some time to come.

112. The Director of Education was absent for the first three months of the year, having been appointed to investigate the state of native education in Basutoland.

113. In October a meeting was convened by the Governor at Lagos of the heads of the Marine, Posts and Telegraphs, Public Works, Railway and Education Departments, to consider the most suitable lines of training and employing Northern Provinces men as artisans. It did not appear probable that there would be any great demand by the big departments for artisans trained in the Northern Provinces.

114. In May the Education (Colony and Southern Provinces) Ordinance (No. 15 of 1926) was passed by the Legislative Council. The Ordinance provided for the establishment of a Board of Education with wide advisory functions and made all schools liable to Government inspection. It also provided for the closing of unsatisfactory schools, and for the registration of all teachers.

115. The Board of Education, of which the members were appointed by the Governor, have prepared regulations under the Ordinance which have been submitted for the consideration of the Governor-in-Council.

116. Plans are being prepared for the building of two Government training institutions, at which it is intended to train teachers for Government schools and also for assisting the missions in the training of their teachers. These institutions will be for residential students, and will also provide facilities for men who have had experience of teaching to take special courses.

117. Teachers are being trained at three Government and thirteen mission schools and institutions, two of the latter being for women. The mission training institutions are for residential students and are under the direction of European principals.

118. In the Southern Provinces elementary education is given in forty-eight Government schools and twelve Native Administration schools, all of which are in the Cameroons Province, but the vast majority of elementary schools have been established by the missions. Of the latter 216 have attained a standard which entitles them to financial assistance from Government funds. The remaining schools, over 3,000 in number, are not assisted and until the enactment of the Ordinance (No. 15 of 1926) they were not subject to Government inspection. In a large number of these schools, the standard of education is so low that it is practically valueless.

119. In Government schools little has yet been done to develop any form of vocational training, except that in a number

of schools some instruction in carpentry and in school-gardening is given. Of the non-Government schools, the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, under the management of the United Free Church Mission, has departments in which carpentry, printing, and tailoring are taught. There are also several mission girls' schools where vocational training is given.

120. Although progress has been made in recent years in the matter of female education, there is still a great shortage of girls' schools. The chief difficulty which has to be faced in developing female education is the lack of women who offer to be trained as teachers. Of those who enter the teaching profession the great majority leave it when they marry.

121. King's College, Lagos, is the only Government school which is confined to secondary education. Entrance to the school is by examination. During the year a boarding house and well-equipped laboratories have been opened, and the European teaching staff has been strengthened.

IX.—Climate.

122. The seasons in Nigeria depend rather on the rainfall than on the temperature, and they are as a rule well defined. The "dry season" with its attendant "Harmattan" begins in the north of the country in October, and ends in April. It is of shorter duration in the south, and at Lagos generally lasts from November to March with only intermittent "Harmattan." The "Harmattan" is a dry north-easterly wind which brings with it a thick haze composed of minute particles of dust and shell. During the "Harmattan" the nights and early mornings are cold, but the days are very hot, and it is during this period that the maximum diurnal variations occur.

123. Generally speaking, the lowest mean temperature is in the months of July and August, and the lowest minimum recorded at the beginning and end of the year. The highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in March and April. In most cases the difference in range between the maximum and minimum temperatures is greater in proportion to the distance of a station from the coast.

124. At the end of the "dry season" numerous tornados herald the approach of the "rainy season." Before a tornado the air is oppressively close and heavy; the tornado itself, which is scarcely more than a heavy squall, lasts but a short time and is accompanied and followed by a thunderstorm and rain. The "rainy season" lasts until October, with a slight break in August, and is followed by another short tornado season. In the south the prevailing wind during this season is from the south-west, and with it comes the rain, which is remarkably heavy along the coast and decreases rapidly as it travels inland.

125. In the Southern Provinces, the rainfall was on the whole normal, though April, with nearly thirteen inches of rain in Lagos, was the wettest April yet recorded. The total rainfall for the year was slightly above the average, namely 75·97 in., compared to the average of 71·95 in. During the year, rainfall at Debunsha on the Cameroons sea-coast has been included in the returns published. The mean annual rainfall at this place is about 370 in., and in the wet months of the year as much as 60 in. of rain falls in a single month.

126. The average annual rainfall at Forcados, on the Niger Delta, is 149 in. ; at Lokoja, situated at the confluence of the Niger and Benue, it is 47 in. ; and at Sokoto, in the north-west of Nigeria, it is only 25 in.

X.—Communications.

127. *Railways.*—The railway is divided into two systems, the Western system, with its terminus at Iddo and Apapa, and the Eastern system, terminating at Port Harcourt. The Western system provides a direct rail route between the port of Lagos and Kano, 704½ miles from the coast, and serves the important towns of Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ilorin, Minna, Kaduna and Zaria. A branch line of 2 ft. 6 in. gauge connects Zaria with the tinfields of the Bauchi Plateau, terminating at Bukuru (143 miles). Baro, on the Niger River, is served by a line (111 miles) branching from the main line at Minna, and forms a port for import and export traffic. The Eastern line, running from Port Harcourt, on the Bonny Estuary, connects with Makurdi (291 miles) and serves the important Udi coalfields at Enugu at 151 miles. This line has been extended up to join the Western system at Kaduna Junction at a distance of 566 miles from Port Harcourt.

128. The construction of the new section between Makurdi, on the Benue River, and the branch line from Kafanchan, on this section, to Bukuru and Jos, on the Bauchi branch, is now nearing completion, and it is proposed to open the two new sections for public traffic on 1st April, 1927. The two railheads between Makurdi and Kaduna were joined on 12th July, 1926. The 3 ft. 6 in. gauge railhead reached Bukuru on 25th September, and the ten miles of 2 ft. 6 in. gauge track between there and Jos will be converted to 3 ft. 6 in. gauge before the end of March, 1927. These new sections will give a direct broad gauge connection from the coalfields at Enugu to the Bauchi tinfields and a number of points on the Western division. Equal rates from all stations north of Kaduna to either port have been sanctioned, the tinfields have been given a much shorter route to the coast, and passengers will now be able to travel direct to Jos without changing trains. The present distance from Iddo to Jos is 750½ miles, and from Iddo to Bukuru 760½ miles via the Western system and the Bauchi Branch. The new route via the Eastern system to Port Harcourt will be 521 miles from Jos and 511 miles from Bukuru.

129. A broad gauge branch line from Zaria (Western system) is being constructed to Gusau, approximately 110 miles in the direction of Sokoto, and the railhead should reach Funtua, some forty miles from Zaria, by the middle of January, 1927. The northerly portion of this line traverses a well populated area which has great possibilities of development and which is largely devoted to the growing of cotton; and investigations are now proceeding to determine the financial prospects of still further extending the branch towards Kaura-na-Moda. A location survey for an extension of the Ifo branch (Western system) to Ilaro, forty-six miles from Iddo, and Idogo a further eight and a-half miles, has been completed to Ilaro. The traffic survey reports on this extension are favourable, and there is every prospect of tapping trade over a considerable area of a country rich in tropical produce. The possibilities of the country between Port Harcourt, Owerri and Lake Oguta are now under consideration; a traffic survey has been completed, and an engineering reconnaissance is now being undertaken.

130. The gross earnings during the financial year ended 31st March, 1926, were £2,353,464, the highest figure recorded in the history of the railway, and the gross working expenditure £1,141,628, making the net receipts £1,211,836. The total number of passengers carried was 2,413,113, an increase of 490,533 over the number carried the previous year, and the tonnage of goods and minerals hauled was 797,279 tons, an increase of 111,172 tons over the previous year's tonnage.

131. The estimated revenue for the calendar year is placed at £2,325,000 and the approximate expenditure at £1,362,980, excluding interest charges and the cost of departmental services, pensions, etc.

132. There are now 151 stations opened for traffic, 120 on the Western system, and 31 on the Eastern system. A further 28 stations will be opened as from 1st April, 1927. The permanent staff of the railway includes 404 Europeans. The African salaried staff, in which is included 49 West Indians, number 1,810, and 11,762 artisans and labourers are employed.

133. The organisation of the railway was altered from 1st February, 1926, when the traffic and locomotive running branches were merged into the Transportation Department, with a Superintendent of the Line at the head, the line being divided into Eastern, Western and Northern divisions, with a Divisional Superintendent in charge of each, under the control of the Superintendent of the Line.

134. A motor transport service is run from Bukuru to various mines in the tinfields, but this service is being closed down as from 31st March next in favour of private enterprise. A service is running in the Zaria and Sokoto Provinces, mainly between Zaria and Gusau. This service comprises modern lorries, and is augmented by roadless track vehicles which are being worked

experimentally on behalf of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, to whom they belong. The motor service will move further afield as the branch railway line opens operations between Zaria and Gusau.

135. *Harbours, Rivers, and Creeks.*—Navigable conditions at the entrance to Lagos harbour continue satisfactory, and have changed little since last year. A draught of 25 ft. is now permissible, and recent surveys indicate an ample depth of water for vessels up to that draught. Replenishment and maintenance work on the moles has been carried out as usual by the Harbour Works Department; further extensions to the training bank were commenced during the year. The dredger "The Lady Clifford" has been employed in dredging on the Eastern Spit, and in the Commodore Channel. The contour of the Eastern Spit shows no appreciable change, but a certain amount of constant dredging is required in order to maintain the *status quo*. Occasional shoal patches have formed in the crossing from the training bank to the signal station, but these have been easily dealt with as soon as discovered. The bar draught was raised from 23 ft. for vessels entering and 24 ft. for vessels leaving to 24 ft. both ways in February, and on 15th November it was again raised to 25 ft. both ways. The governing factor in the draught of the port was not the bar, however, but the channels and berthing accommodation inside the harbour. Inside the harbour dredging has been carried out by the "Child" and "Sandgrouse," in the Pool, the Apapa crossing, the floating dock site at Apapa, and in the channel from East Mole signal station to Five Cowrie Creek, and by the "Queen Mary" in the approach channel to Iddo coal wharf. The total spoil dredged by the "Child" and a percentage of that raised by the "Queen Mary" and "Sandgrouse" was pumped ashore by the "Romulus" at Iddo Island and into the Ijora swamps in connection with the Apapa railway track. That of "The Lady Clifford" was dumped at sea. In addition to the above, some 280,000 tons of spoil was dredged from the area in front of the new Apapa wharves by the contractors.

136. At Port Harcourt the second instalment of ocean wharfrage has made considerable progress, and should be completed in the middle of next year. The construction of the second coaling berth is also well under way, which will increase the facilities of the port greatly. Owing to the extraordinary demands for Nigerian coal due to the strike in England, considerable delays have occurred at time to vessels bunkering.

137. Surveys have been made of the Qua Ibo River, from the entrance to Eket; the Warri River from Goshawk Point to Warri; and the Chanomi Creek from Goshawk Point to the Rawson Creek. Quarterly surveys of Lagos bar and entrance channel have been carried out, and a comprehensive survey, embracing the whole of Lagos harbour from Carter Bridge seawards, was completed during November.

138. Waterway clearing was carried out during the year in the Sudd Region ; and in the Imo and Qua Ibo Rivers ; the Niger and its tributaries, the Anambra and Orashie Rivers and N'doni and Omerun Creeks ; also in the Mungo and Meme Rivers in the Cameroons Province. The launch routes throughout the delta have been kept clear and open to navigation.

139. The buoyage on the coast, at the river entrances, and in the navigable rivers, has been well maintained during the year. Altogether there are fifty-nine buoys and fourteen beacons maintained as aids to ocean navigation, in addition to three long range light buoys.

140. The lights on the coast, including the British Cameroons, have been well maintained. Cape Nachtigal light is being fitted with a new automatic burner, and was extinguished on the 1st November for this purpose.

141. Mail and transport services were maintained regularly by the Government between the following ports :—Lagos to Sapele and Forcados ; Baro on the Niger to Lokoja and Onitsha ; Port Harcourt to Opobo and Port Harcourt to Degema and Brass. An intermittent cargo service has been maintained on the River Niger as far as Lokoja. This service has been threatened with extinction for some time past, and was closed down at the end of the year. The low water service on the Cross River, between Itu and Ikom, in conjunction with Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company, has run satisfactorily. A ferry service from Lagos to Apapa was commenced late in 1925, a specially built steamer being procured for the purpose. The ferry is well patronised, some 488,000 persons having been transported during the year, but it does not yet cover all working expenses. The transport of Nigerian coal for Government departments from Port Harcourt to Lagos and to the outstations Forcados, Calabar and Victoria has been maintained throughout the year. The contract by which part of this coal was carried by private enterprise was terminated in May. A new collier of 3,000 tons capacity to replace one of the old ones was purchased by Government during the year, and commenced running in September.

142. *Railway Ports. Port Harcourt.*—A further extension of the riverside wharf is now under construction, and will provide two berths for the accommodation of the largest ships using this port. New coaling plant and storage bins, with mechanical loading, are under construction. This will greatly increase the capacity of the port, and will enable quicker loading of cargo coal. *Apapa :* The port is nearing completion, and two berths for the largest ships in the African trade, fitted with modern warehouses, electrical cranes, etc., specially designed to accelerate the handling of cargo, are now in use. Two further berths and sheds are nearing completion.

143. *Shipping*.—Regular mail, passenger and cargo services have been maintained throughout the year between the United Kingdom and Nigerian ports, and also between Continental and American ports and Nigeria. Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company, Limited, hold the bulk of the shipping, but many other firms run regular services, amongst them being the American West Africa Line, John Holt and Company, Limited, African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Limited, Holland West Africa Line, Woermann Line and allied companies, and Chargeurs Réunis, French Steamship Line, Fraissinet—Fabre Line, Roma Società di Navigazione, and Italian West Africa (Congo) Line—Navigazione Libera Triestina. The total tonnage of cargo landed and shipped during 1926 was over 1,187,000 tons, as compared with 1,000,000 tons last year. The number of vessels which entered and cleared was 1,282, as against 670 in 1925.

144. *Roads and Bridges*.—Approximately 3,000 miles of motor road are now maintained by the Public Works Department. In addition to the foregoing the Native Administrations have constructed, in some cases with the assistance of the Public Works Department, many roads of a similar type and maintain in addition a considerable mileage of roads which are serviceable for light motor traffic during the dry season.

145. The volume of motor traffic using certain of the trunk roads in the Southern Provinces has now reached a point where the existing gravel surfaces are no longer adequate, and the work of widening and strengthening such roads is being undertaken.

146. Reconstruction is already in hand on the Lagos—Abeokuta—Ibadan road, the Ibadan—Ijebu-Ode road and the Ibadan—Ife road, and provision has been made for the continuance of this very necessary work. The construction by the Public Works Department of permanent bridges and culverts has been completed on the Iseyin—Eruwa road, the Oko—Ede road and the Ibadan—Ijebu-Ode road. The Shasha river bridge on the Ede—Ife road has been reconstructed, the old timber spans being replaced by steel, and a 100 ft. span steel bridge has been constructed over the Osse River on the Owo—Ikari road. Construction of the Abeokuta—Asha road has been completed, also the strengthening of the bridges on the Bukuru—Ropp road.

147. Works under construction comprise the Funtua—Yashi road, which will serve as a feeder to the Zaria—Gusau Railway, the bridging and culverting of the Kaduna—Zaria, the Riga-chikun—Jos, and the Ondo—Agbabu roads, while work has been commenced from Abakaliki on a system of roads in Ogoja Province, which will ultimately extend into the Cameroons. At Wudyl, in Kano Province, a steel bridge approximately 900 ft. in length is being constructed over the Challowa River, and bridges are also being built at the Osara River, on the Lokoja—Okeni road, and over the Amu and Amberi Rivers in Benue

Province. Further works in hand include the re-bridging of the Abeokuta-Ijebu-Ode road, the Enugu-Abakaliki road, and the Eket-Oron road.

148. Surveys are in hand for various contemplated roads, which will form feeders to the railway system of the country. These include the Zaria-Kidandan and Gusau-Anka roads in Zaria Province and the Oturkpo-Katsina Ala road in Benue Province. A survey party is also investigating the possibility of bridging the Cross River near Ikom, and will subsequently proceed with road location through the difficult country between Ikom and Bamenda.

149. The Central Road Board, inaugurated during the year, has proved of considerable value in examining and co-ordinating the various proposals for road and bridge construction laid before Government.

150. *Posts and Telegraphs.*—In spite of the effects of the coal strike in the United Kingdom, which has seriously affected the general trade of the Colony, the services of this Department continue to increase. The policy of using motor transport for mails has been pursued wherever possible, and carrier transport is now only resorted to for minor mail services. Recent developments in wireless telegraphy have been the subject of much consideration: receiving stations of (Rugby) British Wireless News, and for experimental purposes are in process of installation. Telegraph construction on the Eastern Railway has been completed; and a start has been made on the Zaria-Gusau Railway extension. A new telegraph line from Akure to Ondo will be completed early in 1927, and should prove a useful channel of communication to a rich and rapidly developing district.

151. *Surveys.*—The activities of the Department throughout the year covered a large field.

The principal items are :—

- (a) The extension of the trigonometrical framework which will eventually cover the whole of Nigeria as a foundation for the production of maps over existing and potential development areas as required.
- (b) The production of field sheets and standard sheets for the use of the Geological Survey Department in their investigations of the coal and lignite areas in the Onitsha Province and the gold-bearing areas around Minna in the Northern Provinces.
- (c) The demarcation and investigation of claims over the area acquired at Yaba.
- (d) The re-survey and revision of Lagos Island on a large scale.
- (e) The survey of many townships, trading sites and boundaries in the Northern and Southern Provinces.

- (f) The strengthening of the Minesfield section by the engagement of a special Royal Engineers party, consisting of three officers and fifteen N.C.Os. who arrived in November.

The large amount of arrears in survey on the minesfield will thus be shortly dealt with, and development will be unhampered.

- (g) All lithographic work such as the production of maps for the Department and general work for other departments is now undertaken locally, saving much expense and delay.
- (h) Wireless experiments have been carried out in different parts of the country for the reception of time signals, with excellent results, and an apparatus for the rating of chronometers, etc., is now installed at Lagos.

152. *Public Works.*—The output of work by the Department has shown a very substantial increase during the year despite disabilities consequent upon a continued shortage of staff and delays in the supply of materials and plant due to the industrial unrest in England.

153. Progress in water supply schemes throughout the country has been retarded by non-delivery of imported material. The Port Harcourt supply is in hand and work is proceeding on well sinking. A revised scheme has been prepared for the Onitsha Water Supply which will be derived from wells sunk near the Nkissi River: work is now in hand. The investigations for a water supply at Ijebu-Ode have been completed, and it is proposed to utilise the resources of some natural springs situated approximately two miles from the town; here, again, work has been commenced. At Aba work is in hand on a water supply to be derived from wells, while at Ibadan a preliminary supply is under consideration whereby water from the Ogunpa stream will be made available for the European population, pending investigation of a major scheme for the supply of Ibadan town. At Kaduna construction has been commenced on a scheme which utilises the waters of the Kaduna River as a source of supply. The results of the tests carried out during the past year at the Challowa River with a view to ascertaining the existence of underground water capable at all seasons of meeting the demands of a supply to serve Kano town have been forwarded to the consulting engineers, who consider that the facts disclosed are such as to justify further investigation of this possible source of supply.

154. The electric light scheme for Port Harcourt has been passed to, and approved by, the consulting engineers, and orders have been placed for the supply of the necessary plant. A scheme for electric power and light at Kaduna has been prepared and referred to the consulting engineers for advice on certain points.

At Ibadan investigations are being made with regard to the provision of a minor scheme to provide electric lighting pending the preparation of the major scheme contemplated. A very appreciable increase in consumption of current has been recorded in connection with the Lagos electricity supply during the past year, resulting in a proportionate increase in earnings. A further increase may be anticipated with the opening of the new wharfage at Apapa. The demand is, however, still too small for profitable working of the station.

155. The Department has been faced with an abnormal building programme. The following works providing increased medical facilities have been completed during the year: Massey Street dispensary, Lagos; Out-patients' block, Enugu; African hospitals at Jos and Port Harcourt; and extensions to the African hospital, Kaduna. Work is in hand in connection with new European hospitals at Enugu, Jos, Kano and Ibadan, and new African hospitals at Lagos, Oshogbo, Ijebu-Ode and Aba. Extensions have been undertaken to various hospitals and a new central medical store is in course of erection at Lagos.

156. The provision of officers' quarters has continued. The 1925-26 programme, comprising quarters for 64 European and 168 African staff, has been completed, and work is well in hand on the 1926-27 programme, which embraces staff quarters of various types for 134 Europeans and 303 Africans.

157. Of other works undertaken the following have been completed: King's College Laboratory, Lagos; new Customs office, Lagos; magistrate's court, Enugu; post office and court house, Zaria; and public offices, Jos. Work is in hand on new post offices at Oshogbo, Ede, Ife, and Imo River, new Public Works Department offices, Lagos, and new laboratories for the Agricultural Department at Ibadan.

158. Contracts have been entered into with local firms for the execution of works to the approximate value of £82,000; and the Crown Agents have been instructed to offer to tender in England other works of magnitude.

K. L. HALL,

Acting Senior Assistant Secretary.

Lagos,

22nd February, 1927.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1926, No. 1330 9d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 .. 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1925, No. 1334 .. 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 .. 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 .. 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1331 .. 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 .. 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 .. 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1925-26, No. 1333 .. 2s. 6d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1328 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GRENADE, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) 4s. 6d.
*IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) .. 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE. REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial No. 16) .. 2s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-25 (Colonial, No. 24) 9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1336.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1244 (Price 9d.) and for Report for 1925 see No. 1294 (Price 9d.).)



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 9d. Net.

58-4-0-26.

No. 1336.

BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926*.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

Basutoland, which is a native territory in South Africa, is bounded on the west by the Orange Free State, on the north by the Orange Free State and Natal, on the east by Natal and East Griqualand, and on the south by the Cape Province. Its area is 11,716 square miles. It lies between $28^{\circ} 35'$ and $30^{\circ} 40'$ south latitude, and between 27° and $29^{\circ} 30'$ east longitude.

The altitude varies from 5,000 ft. to 11,000 ft. above sea-level, and the climate is, on the whole, healthy. The Maluti Mountains in former years were used entirely as cattle posts, but owing to the increase in population the Basuto have found it necessary to migrate there and build villages and cultivate the land, so that to-day the more or less inaccessible area is gradually becoming as thickly populated as the low-lying country to the west. In favourable seasons the Territory produces wheat, mealies, and kafir-corn, also horses, cattle, and sheep; the export of wool for this year amounting to 12,131,574 pounds weight.

In 1818 the first Paramount Chief of Basutoland, Moshesh, gathered together the remnants of various tribes which had been scattered about South Africa during the wars waged by Moselekatse, and thus founded what to-day has become the Basuto nation, consisting of upwards of 540,000 souls.

A series of wars took place, from 1856 onwards, between the Basuto and the inhabitants of the Orange Free State, and it was not until 1868, when Moshesh was hard pressed by the Boers, that he appealed to the British Government for help and the recognition of his people as British subjects. This was carried into effect in March, 1868. In 1871 the Territory was annexed to the Cape Colony, and, after various disturbances, the Government of the Cape, in April, 1880, extended the provisions of the Cape Peace Preservation Act of 1878 to Basutoland, which included a clause providing for the general disarmament of the Basuto. The Basuto refused to accept the terms, and, after a war lasting nearly a year, an agreement was arrived at by which the Act was repealed and certain fines inflicted on the tribe.

* The financial information given in this Report is for the year ended the 31st March, 1926. Other details are for the calendar year 1926.

Although outwardly peace had been restored, there still remained several chiefs who would in no way accept the terms, and it was eventually decided by the Government of the Cape Colony to hand over the administration to the Imperial Government. This took effect on the 13th March, 1884. Since that date the Territory has been governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for South Africa.

In 1903, a native National Council of 100 members was formed for the purpose of discussing internal matters, and with a view to acting in a measure as an advisory body to the Resident Commissioner.

General Events of the Year.

There were no faction fights of a serious nature during the year, but considerable friction continues to exist in the Leribe District, due in a measure to Chief Jonathan's great age and inability to attend to disputes amongst his people.

RETIREMENT OF LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR E. C. F. GARRAWAY, K.C.M.G.

During the year Lieut.-Colonel Sir E. C. F. Garraway, K.C.M.G., Resident Commissioner, retired on pension, and he was succeeded by Mr. J. C. R. Sturrock, M.A.

DROUGHT.

The Territory again suffered from severe drought, which occurred during the latter portion of the year.

NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The twenty-first session of the National Council was held from the 9th to the 22nd of October.

The following were the more important matters discussed :—

- (1) *Eradication of Noxious Weeds.*—This subject was again fully discussed.
- (2) *Administration of Justice in Native Courts.*—Some speakers declared that there was no justice in the Native Courts, while others alleged that there was undue delay in the hearing of cases. The Resident Commissioner informed the Council that he hoped to lay before the members at the next session a draft of Regulations for the better conduct of Native Courts.
- (3) *Introduction of Bastard Sheep and Goats into Basutoland.*—Councillors were agreed that much harm was being caused to the flocks in the Territory through the introduction of bastard sheep and goats. On being

assured that the Government had no intention of interfering with sheep and goats already in the country, the Council agreed that the High Commissioner should be asked to promulgate a law prohibiting the importation of bastard sheep and goats into Basutoland.

- (4) *Equine Mange*.—Draft Regulations for the prevention of equine mange were laid before the Council. After some discussion the Regulations were agreed to by the majority of the Council, the only reservation being that the maximum penalty for breach of the Regulations should be reduced from £10 to £5.
- (5) *Formation of an Education Fund*.—The Council was unanimous in its desire for better education and in its agreement with the scheme for the formation of an Education Fund. It required an assurance, however, that the money would be spent only on education. The proposal that part of the revenue of the Fund should be raised by the imposition of an education levy resulted in a discussion lasting several days. The Council eventually agreed to the principle of the levy, and the question whether it should be per tax paid or per taxpayer was put to the vote with the result that thirty Councillors were in favour of the levy being per tax and forty-seven in favour of its being per taxpayer.

Legislation.

The following Proclamations were promulgated during the year :—

- (1) Motor Vehicle Proclamation, 1926 (No. 7).
- (2) Pensions Amendment Proclamation, 1926 (No. 10).
- (3) Customs Tariff (Amendment) Proclamation, 1926 (No. 14).
- (4) Appropriation Proclamation, 1926 (No. 18).
- (5) Amending Pensions Amendment Proclamation, 1926 (No. 26).
- (6) Income Tax Proclamation, 1926 (No. 31) ; and
- (7) Auctioneers Licence and Auction Dues Amendment Proclamation, 1926 (No. 32).

Financial.

The revenue for the financial year ended the 31st March, 1926, amounted to £281,572, and the expenditure to £268,076, an excess of revenue over expenditure of £13,496.

The balance of assets in excess of liabilities at the 31st March, 1926, was £92,357

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during the past three financial years:—

REVENUE.

	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£
Native Tax	134,689	127,531	139,776
Customs and Excise	71,043	76,765	84,196
Posts and Telegraphs	8,038	8,520	8,428
Licences	7,585	7,928	7,766
Fees of Court or Office	784	906	1,084
Judicial Fines	2,009	1,991	3,022
Income Tax	6,773	12,997	13,759
Fees for services rendered	1,366	1,484	1,386
Interest	2,341	1,735	1,819
Wool Export Duty	14,128	17,189	15,421
Miscellaneous	3,857	3,962	4,915
	<u>£252,613</u>	<u>£261,008</u>	<u>£281,572</u>

EXPENDITURE.

	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£
Resident Commissioner	13,758	13,692	13,829
District Administration	12,670	12,791	13,091
Police	36,189	36,756	37,507
Posts and Telegraphs	10,437	10,118	10,458
Administration of Justice	9,806	11,078	11,659
Public Works Department	6,526	5,665	5,616
Public Works Recurrent..	20,990	22,153	23,778
Public Works Extraordinary	3,661	2,383	8,820
Medical	20,575	22,795	21,548
Education	34,813	35,836	40,113
Government Industrial School	2,437	2,429	2,486
Agriculture	21,806	22,927	28,780
Allowances to Chiefs	12,448	12,323	11,994
National Council	1,950	2,193	2,037
Leper Settlement	20,036	19,077	19,306
Pensions	6,681	6,812	7,599
Miscellaneous	5,656	6,955	9,455
	<u>240,439</u>	<u>245,983</u>	<u>268,076</u>
Expenditure from Surplus			
Balances	1,230	4,214	—
Total	<u>£241,669</u>	<u>£250,197</u>	<u>£268,076</u>

INCOME TAX.

The rates of normal tax and super-tax on incomes were imposed by Proclamation No. 23 of 1925. Provision was made therein for an increase from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. in normal tax for each pound of the incomes of Companies, and an increase from £50 to £60 in the abatement allowed to persons in respect of each child.

The collection for the year amounted to £13,759 5s. 9d., being an increase of £762 15s. 10d. on the receipts for the year 1924-25 and an excess of £1,759 5s. 9d. on the estimate.

This excess was entirely due to additional revenue derived from Companies.

The total collection was made up as follows:—

<i>Arrear Tax :—</i>				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Normal	..	..	..	101	0	5			
Super	..	..	..	10	5	7	111	6	0
<i>Current Tax :—</i>									
Normal	..	..	..	12,085	17	0			
Super	..	..	..	1,562	2	9	13,647	19	9
							£13,759	5	9

The following table shows the sources from which the taxable incomes were derived, and the amount of tax obtained from each source:—

			£	s.	d.	per cent.
General Traders	..	..	9,964	19	6	72.42
Civil Servants	..	..	1,264	1	2	9.19
Employed Persons	..	..	513	18	3	3.73
Others—including Banks, etc.			1,243	14	9	9.04
Non-residents	..	..	772	12	1	5.62
			£13,759	5	9	100

The number of incomes assessed for current tax in the various categories were:—

No.	Category.	Total of Taxable Incomes.
	£	£
90	500 and under	34,573
51	501— 750	30,620
28	751—1,000	24,379
26	1,001—1,500	30,889
9	1,501—2,000	14,765
7	2,001—4,000	17,609
7	Over 4,000	66,767

218 Total taxable income of persons
assessed for current tax £219,602

Trade.

The following is a return of the imports into, and the exports from, the Territory by general traders during the calendar year 1926, the figures for 1925 being given for purposes of comparison:—

IMPORTS.

	1925.		1926.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Merchandise	—	£ 733,173	—	£ 593,919
Live stock :—				
Horses, Mules, etc. ..	425	1,021	70	239
Cattle	1,682	5,008	768	2,147
Sheep and Goats	338	364	264	400
Grain :—	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat-meal ..	3,343	6,458	4,741	8,395
Maize and Maize-meal ..	39,423	32,785	55,892	39,607
Kafir Corn	34,739	27,475	25,256	19,766
Other Produce	—	6,263	—	541
Totals	—	812,547	—	665,014

EXPORTS.

	1925.		1926.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Live stock :—		£		£
Horses, Mules, etc. ..	93	963	37	264
Cattle	877	4,165	2,848	12,396
Sheep and Goats	1,670	1,515	453	390
Grain :—	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat-meal	83,602	105,558	103,402	111,694
Maize and Maize-meal	71,061	34,553	5,561	3,092
Kafir Corn	3,249	2,018	2,325	2,277
Oats	413	135	98	40
Barley	44	25	45	24
Beans and Peas	15,771	6,549	2,031	1,560
Wool and Mohair :—	<i>lb.</i>		<i>lb.</i>	
Wool	11,721,411	469,315	12,131,574	427,047
Mohair	1,958,877	119,285	2,156,603	121,098
Hides and Skins :—				
Hides	204,408	6,067	350,084	10,275
Skins	116,347	2,802	202,786	5,229
Miscellaneous	—	3,156	—	1,564
Totals	—	£756,106	—	£696,950

OTHER STATISTICS.

Government imports during the year amounted to £45,061, as compared with £38,431 in 1925.

The total exports of wool and mohair during the year amounted to 16,655,056 lb. of which 14,288,177 lb. were exported by general traders.

Education.

The average attendance of pupils in schools and institutions is now 33,074, while the number of scholars on the roll is 44,936.

The following table shows the average attendance of pupils during the last ten years :—

Table I.
Average Attendance. Increase. Decrease.

<i>Year.</i>			<i>Average Attendance.</i>	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
1917	..	..	20,760	1,264	—
1918	..	..	21,160	391	—
1919	..	..	22,556	1,396	—
1920	..	..	23,479	932	—
1921	..	..	22,586	—	893
1922	..	..	23,424	838	—
1923	..	..	26,124	2,700	—
1924	..	..	29,267	3,143	—
1925	..	..	30,005	738	—
1926	..	..	33,074	3,069	—

From this table it will be seen that another large increase of 3,069 in the average attendance has taken place. The total increase during the last four years has been nearly 10,000.

Table II.

Grants to Missions for Schools and Institutions for the year ending 31st March, 1926.

	£	s.	d.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society ..	22,690	0	0
Roman Catholic Mission	6,989	0	0
Church of England Mission ..	3,563	10	0
	<hr/>		
	£33,242	10	0

Table III.

Elementary Schools according to Size and Denomination.

<i>Mission.</i>	<i>Over 200</i>	<i>150 to 200</i>	<i>100 to 150</i>	<i>70 to 100</i>	<i>60 to 70</i>	<i>45 to 60</i>	<i>25 to 45</i>	<i>20 to 25</i>	<i>Under 20</i>	<i>Total.</i>
P.E.M.S.	9	20	45	79	27	63	81	23	12	359
Roman Catholic	1	8	10	12	13	19	34	8	7	112
Church of England	1	1	5	12	7	11	14	5	4	60
Total	11	29	60	103	47	93	129	36	23	531
	+8	+14	+10	+12	+13	+3	-35	-9	-7	+9

In September, 1926, there were 531 Government-aided schools, as against 522 in September, 1925. Eight more schools have reached an average attendance of over 200, while the total number of schools whose average attendance is under 20 is now reduced to 23, as against 30 for last year.

The increases and decreases as compared with 1925 are given under each column. Practically speaking, all schools have increased in size.

Table IV.
Enrolment of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Mission.	Number of pupils on Roll, September, 1925.			Number of pupils on Roll, September, 1926.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society.	9,660	19,793	29,453	10,553	20,805	31,358
Roman Catholic ..	1,990	6,008	7,998	2,074	6,329	8,403
Church of England ..	1,458	2,943	4,401	1,494	2,997	4,491
Total	13,108	28,744	41,852	14,121	30,131	44,252

The increase is 2,400. Despite the general belief of the Basuto that it is more important to educate boys than girls, every year the figures show that there are more girls than boys in the schools. From the above figures, two-thirds of the children are girls and only one-third boys.

The percentage of boys to girls for the last three years is as follows :—

Year.	Boys.	Girls.
1924	32 per cent.	68 per cent.
1925	31 "	69 "
1926	32 "	68 "

Table V.
Enrolment of Pupils in Institutions.

Institution.	Mission.	No. of pupils on Roll, September, 1925.			No. of pupils on Roll, September, 1926.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Morija	Paris Evangelical Mission Society	120	—	120	139	—	139
Th. Morena ..	"	—	27	27	—	38	38
Cana	"	—	15	15	—	25	25
Leloaleng ..	"	51	—	51	53	—	53
Roma	Roman Catholic	136	243	379	113	248	361
Masit	Church of England	23	—	23	26	—	26
Maseru	Church of England	—	38	38	—	37	37
Total ..	—	330	323	653	331	348	679

The increase is 26. This is chiefly due to the new school at Cana. The number of pupils at the other institutions remains much the same as in previous years.

Many young Basuto go to schools and institutions in the Union, but it is impossible to estimate the number.

Table VI.
Average Attendance of Pupils in Elementary Schools.

Mission.	Year ending September, 1925.			Year ending September, 1926.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society.	6,478	13,985	20,463	7,258	15,477	22,735
Roman Catholic ..	1,412	4,449	5,861	1,496	4,956	6,452
Church of England ..	956	2,072	3,028	1,032	2,220	3,252
Total	8,846	20,506	29,352	9,786	22,653	32,439

This shows an increase of 3,087.

Percentage average attendance in Schools :—

Year.	Boys.	Girls.
1924	31 per cent.	69 per cent.
1925	30 "	70 "
1926	30 "	70 "

The total average attendance in elementary schools is 32,439, and the enrolment is 44,252. This is a slight improvement on last year, being approximately 73 per cent. compared with 70 per cent. in 1925.

GENERAL.

The average attendance has increased from 23,000 in 1922 to 33,000 in 1926. This is phenomenal and means that many schools are now overcrowded, and it will be a question for the near future, if not for the immediate present, to provide more accommodation. Fortunately, in a climate like that of Basutoland, classes can often be held in the open air, and this plan is often resorted to in order to lessen congestion.

On the whole, and in spite of many disadvantages, fair progress is being made in elementary education. The three "Rs" are fairly well taught and pupils who reach Grades IV and V can all write and read Sesuto and do simple sums. But with better material, furniture, and buildings there would be more efficient work done in the schools. Teachers and children are apt to be discouraged when they have to work in such uncongenial surroundings as exist in certain schools.

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.

In December, 1926, there were 114 pupils in the eight schools for European children, being a decrease of ten pupils as compared with last year's figures.

Veterinary.

ANTHRAX.

During the year there were forty outbreaks of anthrax, an increase of nineteen.

The year 1926 was a remarkably dry one and the live stock suffered very serious privation, especially in the midlands and southern portion of the Territory, and it is quite possible that the shortage of pasture may be a contributing factor to the ingestion of the anthrax spores in the ground.

During the year, 35,446 animals were inoculated, with very good results.

EQUINE MANGE.

This again assumed serious proportions, and demonstrated how difficult the position was without the support of proper regulations.

At the National Council held in September this disease was fully discussed together with the regulations which have now come into force.

With the advent of the mange law the co-operation of all Assistant Commissioners and Police Officers was invited. This was willingly given. Pitsos were held throughout the Territory, explaining the law to the natives and asking them to assist, and a big effort is now being made to stamp out this widespread disease.

Dressing depots have been organised at all dipping tanks, and in some cases chiefs have offered to assist in the treatment. The offer has been gladly accepted.

There is now every hope of finally eradicating this disease, and the tendency for owners with badly infected horses to abandon them in the mountains is now likely to cease.

The mountain areas without dipping tanks or trading stations present the greatest difficulty now, but every effort is being made to get at the people in these areas, and every facility is being given horse-owners to treat their animals.

During the year, 15,816 equines were treated.

SCAB.

It is gratifying to be able to report that good progress has been made in the campaign against scab, and some very valuable lessons have been learned.

After careful consideration it was decided to cancel simultaneous dipping in 39 protected areas and substitute for it a thorough tank inspection. It is thought that results fully justify this policy.

During the early summer 390,086 sheep and goats were inspected in these areas, and 99 sheep and goats were found infected with scab. This was very satisfactory and clearly demonstrated the great progress which has been made since the scab campaign was inaugurated.

Experience has shown that one of the most difficult matters in the eradication of scab is a correct diagnosis, and this is especially so in this Territory where bi-annual clipping takes place. To cure scab effectually a correct diagnosis must be made, and experience shows that an ordinary optical inspection of a flock in a kraal or in the veldt may be very misleading and badly scab-infected sheep pass undetected.

In addition to those subjected to a tank inspection, 2,017,273 sheep and goats were dipped, and the mortality for which compensation was paid was 121. This death-rate is remarkably low, in view of the fact that an arsenical dip is employed, and reflects great credit on the staff responsible and justifies the trouble which has been taken to study and reduce mortality.

A great effort has been made to complete the tank erection on the south-eastern border. Unfortunately, however, it has not been possible to complete all the tanks necessary to ensure this. The balance, however, are in process of erection.

Despite the absence of these tanks there is every reason to believe that the scab outlook on the eastern border has improved tremendously, and it is hoped in the near future to reduce the scab in this part of the Territory.

The most serious aspect of the scab campaign is the financial one. This, with the extension of the areas of dipping, is inevitable, and it is quite apparent that it will not be possible to give all owners dipping-tank facilities on the revenue received from the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. wool tax. It would be a calamity to bring the scab work to a standstill now, and unless the badly-infected centres in the mountains, from which sheep are constantly being moved, are cleared up it will be impossible to keep clean the areas in which scab has been eradicated.

Owing to shortage of money the scheme for building twenty new tanks had to be curtailed, and during the year only twelve tanks were erected.

Owing to the extension of tanks to the mountain areas, it was found necessary to appoint another Native Scab Inspector in the Maseru District, and it is quite apparent that more of these will be required in the near future if finances permit of the building of more tanks.

During the year there were many requests and complaints from sheep-owners respecting the absence of dipping facilities, and it is gratifying to observe how most sheep-owners in the Territory to-day recognise what benefit the dipping operations have on the health and welfare of their flocks.

WOOL INDUSTRY.

For some time there has been evidence that the quality of the wool produced in Basutoland is on the decline, and with the slump in prices this matter has been thoroughly investigated both by the Veterinary Department and the trading community.

Investigations showed that the undue presence of "kemp" in the wool was one of the main factors in this deterioration. This is due to the careless methods of breeding by the sheep-owners in allowing bastard or Persian rams to mix with their Merino ewes.

The matter was discussed at the last session of the National Council, and a big campaign has now been launched to try and educate the sheep-owner in this important matter.

STRANGLES.

Strangles has been less prevalent this year; 69 cases were inoculated and treated.

BILIARY FEVER.

Biliary fever has also been less prevalent, 26 cases having been treated.

CONTAGIOUS ABORTION.

This disease was diagnosed in a small herd at Maseru, and treated. It is hoped that there will not be a further spread of this irksome disease.

STUD.

The year 1926 has without doubt been the worst season for stud work experienced over many years. Drought has been the dominating factor throughout the season. This resulted in a serious shortage of green grass, and many mares behaved in quite an unusual manner regarding their oestral cycles.

Some mares after foaling failed to come into oestrus at all. Many mares missed the 9th day of oestrus after foaling, and many, after being served, and refusing the usual trial periods, leading one to believe they were pregnant, returned in oestrus from 40 to 60 days after the last service. The influence of climatic conditions on the oestral cycle in the mare is remarkable and almost incredible.

As the result of last year's season, 74 mares proved in foal out of 169 mares covered. During the season, 126 mares were covered.

GENERAL.

During the year, 2,486 professional visits and attendances were paid by the Principal Veterinary Officer.

Agriculture.

The grant for Agriculture and Tree-planting was £1,200.

LOCUST DESTRUCTION.

There were no fresh outbreaks of *voetgangers* during the year and no flying locusts were observed in Basutoland. There was a fairly serious invasion of "the Elegant Grasshopper" in gardens and lands. This is attributed to the drought and the lack of natural food on the veldt.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

Agricultural Shows were held at Maseru and Quthing.

DONGA PREVENTION.

Owing to the severe drought the trees in many of the dongas died and others had to be planted. In consequence it was not found possible to undertake much fresh work. A number of English elms were planted in dongas as an experiment.

TREE-PLANTING.

At the close of the year there were some 243,500 trees in the various Government Nurseries. During the year, 57,000 trees were issued, and 8,000 were planted on the various Reserves.

AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.

Agricultural Associations have been started at Roma, Mokema, and Teyateyaneng and appear to be flourishing. The members are keen and progressive. They have been visited on several occasions by the Agricultural Officer, who has given lectures and practical demonstrations.

SEED WHEAT BOUNTY.

With a view to improving the wheat in the country the Government allotted a sum of £2,000 as a bounty on seed wheat. Owing to the dry autumn the whole of this amount was not expended. The sum of £156 was expended on local seed and £537 on imported seed.

There is no doubt that the bounty has done a great deal towards improving the type of wheat grown in the Territory.

AGRICULTURAL DEMONSTRATION.

The severe drought greatly handicapped demonstration work during the year, but, in spite of this, satisfactory progress has been made. The natives throughout the Territory are taking the keenest interest in the demonstrations.

Public Works.

ROADS.

The condition of the main roads has been kept up and a considerable number of minor culverts have been put in.

The condition of by-roads has shown much improvement.

It has not been possible to make much advance in constructional work on the main roads and by-roads in the Territory.

BUILDINGS.

Leribe.—Additional huts for Native Police have been built, and an addition of two cells has been made to the gaol.

Teyateyaneng.—New Government Offices have been erected and will shortly be ready for occupation.

Maseru.—New married quarters for a European clerk have been completed.

Mafeteng.—An addition of two cells has been made to the gaol, and additional Police hutting is in course of construction.

Mohale's Hoek.—A new Government Store has been built, and certain additions to the Postmaster's house have been made.

Qacha's Nek.—A new Court Room has been built, and a Nurses' Home and new Police Stables are in course of construction.

WATER-WORKS.

Leribe.—Additional springs have been brought in through half a mile of piping, bringing the total supply for the camp up to 20,000 gallons per day.

Mohale's Hoek.—The camp water-supply has been increased by a new bore-hole with a windmill pump.

Gaols and Crime.

There are seven gaols and four lock-ups in the Territory, and during the year, 2,494 prisoners passed through them, as compared with 2,216 during the year 1925.

The number of convictions for contravention of the liquor laws in 1926 was 40, as compared with 48 for the previous year.

Convictions for offences against property numbered 583, as compared with 439 in 1925.

Movement of Inhabitants.

The following figures give the number of passes issued to natives to leave the Territory during the year, as compared with the figures for the year 1925 :—

		<i>Labour.</i>	<i>Visiting and Miscellaneous.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1925 ..	..	70,048	29,392	99,440
1926 ..	..	96,265	38,905	135,170

Post Office.

The net postal, telegraph, and telephone revenue amounted to £8,428, as compared with £8,520 for the year 1924–25.

The expenditure amounted to £10,458, as compared with £10,118 for 1924–25.

The number of deposits in, and withdrawals from, the Post Office Savings Bank for the last two years is shown in the following table :—

<i>Deposits.</i>		<i>Withdrawals.</i>	
1924-25 =	1,122, value £6,229.	503,	value £4,715.
1925-26 =	1,752, value £8,052.	615,	value £7,736.

The following comparative table shows the number and value of money and postal orders issued and paid during the last two years :—

<i>Issued.</i>		<i>Paid.</i>	
1924-25 =	26,373, value £24,131.	33,148,	value £42,457.
1925-26 =	29,154, value £26,971.	34,172,	value £38,513.

Medical.

During the year, 2,287 patients were treated in the hospitals—showing an increase of 66 over the numbers of the previous year. The deaths numbered 123 and the operations performed totalled 2,250.

In the dispensaries 61,802 patients received treatment, being an increase of 2,273 over the figures of 1925.

The number of vaccinations performed was 22,253, and the revenue received from hospital and out-patient fees amounted to £2,335 10s. 8d.

The following table shows the above statistics arranged according to districts :—

<i>District.</i>	<i>In-Patients.</i>	<i>Out-Patients.</i>	<i>Vaccinations.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>		
				£	s.	d.
Maseru ..	937	14,739	2,095	785	5	0
Leribe ..	450	12,571	283	512	15	0
Mafeteng ..	416	11,094	7,131	327	11	3
Mohale's Hoek	256	6,079	5,258	250	17	3
Outhing ..	207	6,545	—	196	12	3
Qacha's Nek ..	21	3,321	39	90	17	11
Teyateyaneng	—	6,927	7,197	171	12	0
Mokhotlong ..	—	526	350	—		
Totals..	<u>2,287</u>	<u>61,802</u>	<u>22,353</u>	<u>£2,335</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>

There is little noteworthy to report as regards the health of the Territory. It has been very good on the whole. There were no serious outbreaks of epidemic disease. Influenza was more prevalent than in 1925 and was responsible for 985 cases, but with no deaths. There were two sporadic outbreaks of smallpox, 32 cases occurring with 5 deaths, and 5 cases of cerebro-spinal-meningitis were reported with one death. Fevers of the enteric group were few in number; only 70 were reported, and the disease was of a mild type.

The majority of the patients who come to the hospitals do so for surgical aid. For medical treatment they prefer dispensary treatment, after which they return to their homes. The bulk of

the dispensary patients seek treatment for gastro-intestinal, venereal, respiratory, genito-urinary, and skin diseases.

The free treatment of syphilis continues, and more patients are coming every year to avail themselves of this privilege.

The health of the police and prisoners was good, and the condition of the gaols called for only a few slight improvements.

Sanitation to any extent is only possible in the Government Reserves. Maseru is the only proclaimed sanitary area, but it is hoped to bring in Leribe during next year.

Plague being endemic in the neighbouring parts of the Union, three rodent destruction gangs have been constantly employed in the Maseru, Leribe, and Mafeteng Districts. Considerable progress has been made in the destruction of veldt rodents, but in the townships the position is not so satisfactory on account of most buildings not being rat-proof. Every endeavour is being made to cope with the pest and get it under control.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

No important changes in the administration of the Leper Asylum have taken place during the year 1926.

There has been a slight increase in the population, as will be seen from the following population statistics:—

		<i>At 31st December, 1925.</i>	<i>At 31st December, 1926.</i>	<i>Increase.</i>
Males	..	228	247	19
Females	..	233	247	14
		<hr/> 461	<hr/> 494	<hr/> 33

The following are details of the movements of the population throughout the years 1925 and 1926, the former being given for the purpose of comparison:—

	1925.				
	<i>Ad- missions.</i>	<i>Re-ad- missions.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Deser- tions.</i>	<i>Discharge.</i>
Males	45	4	31	7	7
Females	37	4	21	5	19
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	82	8	52	12	26
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	1926.				
	<i>Ad- missions.</i>	<i>Re-ad- missions.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Deser- tions.</i>	<i>Discharge.</i>
Males	43	5	18	7	4
Females	41	2	24	1	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	84	7	42	8	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The increase in the population is accounted for almost entirely by diminutions in the numbers of deaths, desertions, and discharges. It is satisfactory to note that, notwithstanding a more serious incidence of scurvy in 1926 than in the previous year, the number of deaths from all causes was ten less than in 1925. There is also a satisfactory diminution in the number of desertions.

Under the heading "re-admissions," are included only those patients re-admitted after desertion. Patients discharged as arrested cases and afterwards admitted are classed as "admitted" simply because they are given new numbers, their old numbers having been assigned to others admitted after the discharge of the former. In the great majority of cases of admissions after discharge it is not on account of a recurrence of leprosy, but on account of permanent disabilities due to the effects of leprosy in the past.

The lining of three huts with bricks, begun before the end of last financial year, has been completed. Thirty thousand bricks are now being made by a contractor, and the lining of three more huts will be begun at an early date. The same contractor is now engaged in rebuilding the School and two huts for the school children on a site to the west of the space between the two Compounds, the material of these buildings having been removed thither from the Compounds. These buildings will be brick-lined.

A large stone and cement platform has been built at the Farm Steading, for the support of eight cylindrical tanks holding 95 bags of grain each.

The borehole at the western boundary of the farm has continued to give a good supply of water since it was repaired in October, 1925; it shows no sign of exhaustion after six hours' pumping.

Owing to drought and the ravages of cut worm the farm and leper lands yielded a very poor crop. The milk supply, however, was a good one, and sufficient fodder was grown to feed the stock and save the expense of buying outside.

R. B. SMITH,

Government Secretary

Basutoland.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1926, No. 1330 9d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332 9d.
BEGHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1925, No. 1334 .. 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1926, No. 1335 1s. 3d.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1331 .. 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 2d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 8s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1925-26, No. 1333 .. 2s. 6d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1328 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial No. 22) 4s. 6d.
'IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN, 1925 (Colonial No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial No. 15) .. 2s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-25 (Colonial No. 24) 9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1337.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1262 (Price 6d.), and for Report for 1925 see No. 1298 (Price 3d.).)



LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Book-seller.

1927.

Price 3d Net.

No. 1337.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA.)

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea, lying north-west of Jamaica and approximately mid-way between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The group lies between 79.83 and 81.30 West longitude and the 19th and 20th parallels of North latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is seventeen miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is eleven miles long by one and a quarter at its widest part. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the Bluff, indicating that the low land around the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat, and largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The hundred fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as Bartlett's Deep and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean, lies parallel with and south of the islands from twenty-five to fifty miles off shore.

Historical.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman"—alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smallest island. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen, wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba, who have remained domiciled in the Dependency.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica acting with and under the direction of a locally-elected "governor." To this body elected Vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act (26 and 27 Victoria, chapter 31) was passed by the Imperial Parliament, recognising the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validifying such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts, passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica, and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency. The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer and presides in the Grand Court, where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace.

General Observations.

PEACE MEMORIAL.

The only circumstance of moment happening in the year was the formal opening on Armistice Day of the Dependency's Peace Memorial, which has taken the form of a new Court House, Assembly Room, and Town Hall, erected at Georgetown at a cost of two thousand pounds.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

The restrictions placed on immigration into the United States of America have not borne adversely, as was feared, on the people of the Dependency, many of whom enter the Republic for the purpose of taking ship as ocean-going seamen, which they are enabled to do shortly after arrival.

Visitors are allowed to pass freely on entry and departure. There is a small and occasional exchange of population with the nearer Central American Republics of Honduras and Nicaragua, to which Caymanians have journeyed for several generations.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The general health of the Dependency was good. Of the 54 deaths recorded in the year, 14 were under 5 years of age, 4 between 5 and 20 years, 7 between 20 and 40 years, 12 between 40 and 70 years, and 17 over 70 years of age. Five persons died of pulmonary tuberculosis.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 190 births in 1926 (36 per mille) and 54 deaths (10 per mille). The population is estimated at 5,600, as compared with 5,253 at the census in 1921.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The imports for the year (£42,448) are below the average of the previous five years, but, if the inflated years 1921–22 are ignored, are about normal.

The exports (£11,481) are below the normal average for the previous half decade, and all but £2,100 were the products of the turtle fishery.

The countries of origin and destination are given below, but it must be borne in mind that many imports from Jamaica are products of the United Kingdom or of the United States of America, and that the exports of turtle shell and skin to Jamaica are passed on to London for ultimate disposal.

	Food, drinks, etc.	Raw mater- ials.	Manu- factured articles.	Miscel- laneous.	Total.
IMPORTS FROM :	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	167	—	1,449	137	1,753
Jamaica ...	9,910	153	4,101	676	14,840
United States ...	7,885	999	9,572	981	19,477
Other Foreign ...	726	80	1,898	126	2,790
Parcels Post, all	—	—	—	3,588	3,588
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	£18,688	1,232	17,020	5,508	42,448
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	Food, drinks, etc.	Raw mater- ials.	Manu- factured articles.	Miscel- laneous.	Total.
EXPORTS TO :	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	—	100	—	—	100
Jamaica ...	98	4,332	1,750	33	6,213
United States ...	5,015	—	—	—	5,015
Other Foreign ...	146	—	—	10	156
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	£5,259	4,432	1,750	43	11,481
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Government Finance.

The Revenue and Expenditure in recent years have been :

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	£		£	
1922	...	6,996	...	7,565
1923	...	6,611	...	6,823
1924	...	6,005	...	7,013
1925	...	6,970	...	6,622
Average of 4 years	..	6,645	...	7,003
1926	...	7,320	...	7,437

Customs (£1,466) and Post Office (£2,232) together contributed 91·5 per cent. of the total revenue. Sales of stamps to collectors amounted to £1,788.

The expenditure may be summarised as, Departments £3,062, Public Works £1,949, Education £1,500, and other services £926.

Storm damage and other unexpected charges caused a small excess of expenditure (£117) over revenue, and at the end of the year the balance of assets stood at £3,425. There is no public debt.

Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry.

The values of the imports and exports are both below the averages of the previous five years. If, however, the abnormal trade in spirits in 1923 and 1924 (which has not continued) be disregarded, the imports are somewhat below the normal average, while the exports have also fallen off.

The catch of green turtle, returned as 2,500 of merchantable size, was lower than in 1925. The hawksbill fishers were also less successful than in 1925, the catch weighing 3,145 lb., at an average value of £1 6s. 5d. per pound, as compared with 3,952 lb., and a rate of £1 8s. 0d., in the previous year.

The export of thatch-palm rope increased from £640 in 1924 to £1,710 in the year under review. This small industry provides an aid to livelihood to many who, being without a vigorous breadwinner, would otherwise be unable to maintain themselves.

The following tabulation shows the variance in value of imported and exported merchandise :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>		<i>Exports.</i>	
	£		£	
1922	...	36,541	...	13,650
1923	...	88,348	...	53,353
1924	...	51,416	...	16,317
1925	...	42,663	...	14,813
Average of 4 years	...	51,742	...	24,283
1926	...	42,448	...	11,484

The excess of imports over exports is balanced by the remitted wages of seamen in every part of the world, the earnings of island vessels not in the turtle fishery and the contributions to dependents here of men working ashore in the United States and in the ports of Central America.

Three cattle dips were in operation during the year, and a fourth was opened in June. Material benefits in reduction of tick pest have accrued from their use.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a port of registry, having on its register 55 small sailing and 9 motor vessels, with a total tonnage of 3,827 tons. Six vessels, with a total tonnage of 253 tons, were built and registered in 1926.

Three small steamships (654 tons) called at the islands in 1926. The following table shows the number and tonnage of the sailing vessels entered and cleared:—

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>No. entered.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No. cleared.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
British	... 162	... 11,069	... 167	... 11,165
American	... 17	... 5,653	... 16	... 5,593
Cuban	... 3	... 92	... 4	... 122
Haitain	... 1	... 69	... 1	... 69
Honduranean	... 6	... 192	... 5	... 131
Nicaraguan	... 1	... 45	... 1	... 45
Panamanian	... 1	... 45	... —	... —
Totals	... 191	17,165	194	17,125

Banking Facilities.

There are no branches of banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks, or branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are accepted by any of the shops and used by them in the purchase of stocks of goods. The Post Office Money Order system is used to some extent, orders paid in the Dependency in 1926 amounting to £4,202, while the orders issued for payment abroad were less, £3,104.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 48; the deposits for the year have been £315, the withdrawals have amounted to £423, and the balance due to depositors stands at £1,112. Investments made some years ago, with the Crown Agents as trustees, more than cover this liability.

Legislation.

Five laws were enacted in 1926, three being financial. The others were a consolidation of various laws dealing with the sale of intoxicants, and a Coroner's Law.

Education.

Nine Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with ten private schools, had 1,144 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 900. The total expenditure on the Government schools was £1,646. Forty candidates sat for an annual pupil teacher examination set by the Jamaica Education Department; twenty-two were successful.

Meteorological.

Observations are taken at Georgetown only. The rainfall amounted to 63·88 inches, the average for five previous years being 67·50 inches. The heaviest rainfalls were June (11·83 inches) and September (15·38 inches), and the largest single day's rain (2nd June) was 4·03 inches. The rainfall was evenly distributed throughout the islands. The air temperature ranges from 70° to 80° Fahrenheit in the months October to March and 10° higher in summer. No cyclonic disturbances passed over the islands in the year under review, but a heavy sea, an offset from a passing gale, greatly damaged coastal roads.

Communications.

All intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America and the southern ports of the United States is by trading schooners, some of which have motor auxiliary. There is little of community interest between Grand Cayman and the smaller islands, and inter-communication is irregular. Roads, greatly improved in recent years, suitable for motor traffic connect the settlements on the larger islands. From them branch a system of bridle-paths.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba; and all outgoing vessels, to whatever port directed, are the bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, but inter-communication is infrequent. Boddentown, Georgetown and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone. A telephone, privately owned, extends the length of Cayman Brac and messages are sent and delivered for a nominal sum.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

GRAND CAYMAN,
16th April, 1927.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289	1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327	1s.
BAHAMAS, 1926, No. 1330	9d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321	1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301	9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 ..	1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1926, No. 1336	9d.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332	9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317	1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292	1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309	9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1925, No. 1334	6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300	1s.	NIGERIA, 1926, No. 1335	1s. 3d.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1303 ..	1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296	6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1331 ..	6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297	6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 ..	1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326	6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298	3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303	6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243	6s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329	3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325	1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320	1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313	1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316	6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 ..	6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302	2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305	2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307	6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299	1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237	3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1308	9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 ..	1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314	6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304	6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1245	6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318	6d.
GOLD COAST, 1925-26, No. 1333	2s. 6d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319	6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1328	1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295	6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310	6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312	6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324	1s. 6d.		

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial No. 22)	4s. 6d.
'IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial No. 21)	6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN, 1925 (Colonial No. 20)	5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial No. 18)	3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) ..	4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial No. 23)	4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15) ..	2s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-1925 (Colonial No. 24)	9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1338.

WEIHAIWEI.

REPORT FOR 1926.

*(For reports for 1924 and 1925 see Nos. 1248 and 1295
respectively (Price 6d. each).)*



31 ✓

LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh ;
York Street, Manchester ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast ;
or through any Bookseller.

1927

Price 9d. Net.

58-46-0-26.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
1. GENERAL	3
2. FINANCE :	
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE	4
CURRENCY	5
3. CHANGES IN STAFF	5
4. NAVAL	5
5. POLICE	6
6. JUDICIAL :	
CIVIL CASES	8
CRIMINAL CASES	8
HIGH COURT	9
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES... ..	9
7. EDUCATION	9
8. LEGISLATION	10
9. AGRICULTURE	10
10. SALT PRODUCTION	10
11. DYES	10
12. SHIPPING	11
13. TRADE	11
14. MEDICAL	12
15. METEOROLOGICAL	14

Appendices.

I. TOTAL VOLUME AND VALUE OF TRADE	15
II. PRINCIPAL IMPORTS	16
III. PRINCIPAL EXPORTS	17

No. 1338.

WEIHAIWEI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

I. General.

So far as British interests are concerned, the history of Weihaiwei begins in 1898, the year in which the Territory was leased by China to Great Britain, "in order to provide Great Britain with a suitable naval harbour in North China, and for the better protection of British commerce in the neighbouring seas." The leased territory, which comprises an area of approximately 288 square miles, with an irregular coast line of 72 miles, is situated a few miles to the west of the north-eastern promontory of Shantung Province, and contains more than 300 villages, in which dwell the bulk of a population estimated at over 160,000 souls.

At the time when the British Authorities occupied Weihaiwei, the Territory was a roadless, desolate tract of land inhabited by a poverty-stricken peasantry who earned a bare subsistence by fishing and tilling the soil; of trade, other than the barter of dried fish for native wine, none existed, for the simple reason that the Territory produced no commodity suitable for export. But twenty-eight years of British rule have produced a striking change in conditions in the Territory. Unhampered by excessive taxation, the people have been enabled to rise from poverty to prosperity; agricultural pursuits have been developed; waste land has been reclaimed and put under cultivation; good roads have been constructed in place of the former mule-tracks; and industry and commerce have been fostered. To-day a common sight is the congestion of the roads leading into Port Edward with lines of carts bringing in the produce of the Territory and the neighbouring Chinese districts, or carrying back into the interior imports for distribution. Revenue has kept pace with the general prosperity. In 1901-2, the year in which the Colonial Office first took over the administration of Weihaiwei, the total revenue amounted to \$22,000; in 1926 the net revenue collected was \$240,782, and there existed, in addition, a balance of \$152,484 to the credit of the Government.

Apart from all other considerations, however, the great blessing that British rule has brought to the people of the Territory during the past twenty-eight years has been the gift of peace, a gift that will be gratefully remembered by the people long after the British Government shall have ceased to function in the Territory.

II. Finance.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

During the nine months 1st April to 31st December, 1926, the net revenue collected amounted to \$201,756, as compared with \$181,762 and \$166,383 for the same periods of 1925 and 1924 respectively, and it is anticipated that the total net collection of revenue during the financial year ending 31st March, 1927, will amount to nearly \$240,000, as compared with \$195,849, the estimated total collection for the year 1926-27.

The net revenue collected during the calendar year 1926 amounted to \$240,782, as compared with \$205,170 in 1925. A further sum of \$17,346 was collected during 1926 in connection with the Port Edward Breakwater scheme.

The net expenditure from 1st April to 31st December, 1926, was \$164,304, as compared with \$141,484 and \$141,022 for the same periods of 1925 and 1924 respectively.

For the complete financial year the estimated expenditure is \$216,965, or \$4,138 less than the original estimate for the year 1926-27.

The net expenditure for the calendar year 1926 was \$211,734, as compared with \$186,050 for the same period of 1925.

The increase in expenditure over previous years is mainly due to the following items :—

Repairs to S.L. " Alexandra "	...	...	\$7,000
Engagement of Junior Medical Officer, and the low rate of exchange	...	...	\$5,000

The following table shows the financial position for the past four years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	\$	\$
1922-23	195,946	203,741
1923-24	213,956	205,411
1924-25	204,353	181,793
1925-26	224,217	190,147
1925 (1st April to 31st December)	181,762	141,484
1926 (1st April to 31st December)	201,756	164,304

The revenue for 1st April to 31st December, 1925, includes the sum of \$10,769 on account of a special levy for the Wuk'ou and Breakwater schemes, and for the same period of 1926 a sum of \$14,210 on account of the Breakwater scheme.

Expenditure in connection with the above schemes for the same periods amounted to \$1,484 and \$1,618.

No Grant-in-Aid has been made since 1921-22 and it is not anticipated that any sum will be required from Imperial Funds during the present financial year or in 1927-28.

The balance standing to the credit of the Government Account on the 31st December, 1926, was \$152,484, and to the credit of the special account for the Breakwater scheme \$22,248, as compared with \$130,523 and \$8,750 respectively on the 31st December, 1925.

Revenue shows a marked increase over previous years, and as there are still large stocks of groundnuts awaiting shipment, it is probable that the total collection will be far in excess of that of previous years.

CURRENCY.

In January, 1926, the rate of exchange was $2/2\frac{1}{2}$ equals \$1.00 Mexican. Towards the end of February silver depreciated and the dollar value commenced to fall until on 20th October the value was $1/7\frac{1}{2}$, the lowest rate since 1914. After a few days the value rose slowly to $1/9\frac{3}{8}$ at the end of December, 1926.

The average rate of exchange for the Mexican dollar during the calendar year was $2/0\frac{3}{8}$.

A further depreciation, since the last report, has taken place in the value of local shop notes and copper subsidiary coinage, and in December the rate was 290 coppers to the dollar, as compared with 272, the highest rate in 1925.

III. Changes in Staff.

Mr. Peter Grain assumed duty, as Judge of His Majesty's High Court, on the 11th January.

Mr. S. L. Burdett, of His Majesty's Consular Service, was relieved of the duties of Junior District Officer by Mr. L. H. C. Calthrop on the 1st March.

Dr. L. McGolrick was appointed to be Junior Medical Officer on the 3rd June.

IV. Naval.

VISITS OF BRITISH SQUADRON AND FOREIGN SHIPS OF WAR.

The British Fleet under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Edwin S. Alexander-Sinclair, K.C.B., M.V.O., assembled at Weihaiwei at about the middle of June and left at the beginning of September. The presence of so many warships during the summer was a source of keen satisfaction to Chinese merchants and dealers in Port Edward, who had in 1925 suffered a loss of approximately \$300,000 by the withdrawal of His Majesty's Ships due to the disturbances in China in that year.

The behaviour of the men of the Fleet was, as usual, excellent.

The Japanese Second Fleet consisting of the battle cruisers "Kirishima" and "Hiyei," H.J.M.S. "Nagakujira," and five submarines visited Weihaiwei for three days in April. Vice-Admiral Naomi Taniguchi, in command of the Fleet, was present as a Midshipman in the Japanese squadron that assisted in the capture of Weihaiwei in 1895.

The Japanese First Squadron, consisting of the “*Tone*,” “*Hirado*,” and four destroyers, under the command of Rear Admiral O. Nagano, spent two days at Weihaiwei in August.

The 16th and 17th Submarine Divisions of the United States Navy, accompanied by the tenders “*Canopus*” and “*Beaver*,” arrived on the 27th and left on the 28th of September.

V. Police.

The conduct of the police as a whole during the past year may be considered to be satisfactory in view of existing conditions, but a disquieting feature was the number of non-commissioned officers whom it was found necessary to discharge. Seven N.C.O's. out of a strength of 19 were during the year discharged for various grave offences, including the acceptance of bribes, failure to report a murder until four days after the occurrence, and for inefficiency. Out of a strength of 124 men, 15 police constables were dismissed for misconduct of various kinds; one N.C.O. and 15 police constables were reprimanded and fined for minor offences; one N.C.O. died; seven police constables resigned; and one warder and one police constable were discharged as medically unfit. This state of affairs is partly due to the low rate of pay received by the force. The senior N.C.O's., on behalf of the men, recently petitioned the Government for an increase of pay, but their requirements could not be considered owing to the strict injunction laid on the Government to cut down expenditure and economise in every possible way. The Inspectors are at present under strength, and they cannot exercise that close control over the police posts in the Territory and over the patrols in the Port Edward area which is essential if the conduct of the police is to be improved. These Inspectors have, moreover, in addition to their police work, many other duties to perform, which take up too large a proportion of their time.

STRENGTH OF FORCE.

	<i>N.C.O's.</i>	<i>Constables.</i>	<i>Warders.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Port Edward ...	5	49	2	56
The Territory ...	13	65	—	78
The Island ...	1	10	6	17
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	19	124	8	151
	—	—	—	—

These figures show an increase of three men, who were taken on in the summer months to act as special constables. The savings in the estimates effected by the dismissal of some N.C.O's. and men and their replacement by men at a lower rate of pay enabled this to be done without extra expense. It was found necessary to reinforce the Meng Chia Chuang Police Post by three men in order to set more men free for day duty at Ch'iao T'ou

Market, and to establish a night patrol from that post to Ch'iao T'ou to check kidnapping and armed robbery, by gangs of brigands, from spreading across the frontier to the territory. Ch'iao T'ou is a notorious centre for bad characters and pickpockets, and the value of this step was proved by the arrest of a well-known pick-pocket and by the fact that no case of kidnapping, robbery, or burglary has occurred in this district since the reinforcement took place, although over the border crimes of this nature still continue to be prevalent. Three men were sent from headquarters to effect this reinforcement, and the three "special constables" took their place. As it is considered highly desirable to maintain the Meng Chia Chuang post at its present strength, provision in next year's estimates has been made for the permanent retention of the three men as police constables.

WORK OF POLICE.

Port Edward.—There has been no serious case of crime in the Port Edward area. Beyond a few thefts, the offences have been entirely breaches of the regulations and ordinances. Under the Wuk'ou Pier Amended Regulations, brought into force at the beginning of this year, the Water Police have done good work. That all Chinese passengers from ships are now obliged to land at the Wuk'ou Pier renders police supervision much easier and far more effective. It at once resulted in large seizures of smuggled opium (imported) and copper coins (exported), and the discovery of several cases of trafficking in women. At present in Port Edward the above offences are greatly checked, and have almost disappeared. The re-organisation of the duties of the Water Police has further assisted to this end.

The increase in trade and shipping has resulted in a large increase in the number of carts and bicycles and many new buildings have been erected during the year. This has naturally resulted in extra work and responsibility being thrown on the police. The inns are closely supervised. Inspection takes place at irregular intervals, and under the new Common Lodging House and Inn Regulations landlords can no longer shelter bad characters with impunity.

The Territory.—The Territory on the whole has been peaceful and serious crimes have been comparatively rare. Though there has been a great deal of brigandage over the border, it has not spread into the Territory.

There were two murders in the course of the past year. In the first case, the nude body of an elderly man was found, but the police were greatly handicapped by the fact that no one came forward to identify the body, in spite of notices being posted. It can only be concluded that the man was not a native of the Territory, and had come in to attend a large fair, which was being held at the time.

In the second case a crop watcher was murdered at about midnight when proceeding on his rounds. Here, again, the Territory Inspector was handicapped, inasmuch as the sergeant-in-charge of the nearest police post did not report the murder until four days after it occurred. No assistance was given by the district and village headmen, though clansmen of deceased, nor by the relatives, who had in the meantime buried the body and seemed unwilling to assist in the discovery of the murderer. Four men were arrested on suspicion, but owing to the extreme reluctance of the villagers to give evidence—some even going to the length of perjuring themselves—no case was made out against the accused, and they were discharged at the preliminary trial in the Junior District Officer's Court. The district headman and village headman were deprived of their position, and the village fined. The sergeant concerned was dismissed.

Good work was done in the rounding up of a noted gang of burglars, and in the arrest of six receivers of the stolen property. Two armed robbers, who had been active during the year, were arrested and punished. Since the arrest of the above-mentioned men the Territory has been almost entirely free from serious crime. A man who was forging and uttering bad notes was also arrested after good work on the part of the police.

The remainder of the cases dealt with were chiefly breaches of the Opium and Gambling Ordinances, and cases of assault.

The Island.—There was no crime on the Island. The offences committed were all of a minor nature.

The health of the force was good. The men were vaccinated.

MUSKETRY.

The Annual Musketry Course could not be fired this year owing to lack of funds. The force was, however, given tests at the miniature range, with small-arm ammunition, from which they emerged with credit. It is proposed to hold the musketry course early next year, when funds will be available.

VI. Judicial.

Civil Cases.—The number of civil cases commenced in 1926 was 239, as compared with 235 in 1925. Of these, 38 were settled out of Court. Land cases numbered 53, and other property cases 31. Adoption cases numbered 18, matrimonial 4, roads 4, debt 112, village headmen 2, village regulations 2, quarries 2, land tax 3. There were also two cases of torture and six of bankruptcies. Four cases were re-heard by the High Court on appeal.

Criminal Cases.—During the year, 702 cases were tried or heard in the first instance in the Junior District Officer's Court, as compared with 647 in 1925. The total number of persons

convicted was 1,952, of whom 172 were imprisoned and 1,752 fined. Cases of assault and other offences against the person numbered 60. There were 173 gambling cases, 87 breaches of the Opium Ordinance, 2 of the Stamp Ordinance, 80 breaches of the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, Export and Import Prohibition Ordinance, Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, and other Ordinances, and 82 breaches of Vehicle, Sanitary, Harbour, and other Regulations.

Sixty cases of more serious crime occurred, namely : 1 murder, 2 robberies, 7 burglary, 1 forgery, 1 arson, 4 house-breaking, 1 shop-breaking, 28 larceny, 4 of obtaining money by false pretences, 1 attempted larceny with threats, 1 perjury, and 9 cases of the possession or receiving of stolen property.

The case of murder was heard at a preliminary examination in the Junior District Officer's Court. A *prima facie* case was, however, not made out, and the four accused were acquitted.

There were 42 suicides, as compared with 68 of last year.

The revenue benefited to the extent of \$7,192.25, and the rewards to the police amounted to \$2,133.50, and Tiao \$300.00. This last reward was paid from coppers seized under the Export and Import Prohibition Ordinance.

High Court.—There were ten criminal cases in the High Court, namely, 1 case of attempted murder by the administering of poison, the preliminary trial of which was included in last year's report of the Junior District Officer's Court, 1 arson, 2 robbery under arms, 2 burglary, 1 perjury, 1 larceny (attempted) with threats, 1 forgery, and one appeal from a conviction for breach of the Quarantine Regulations.

There were three civil cases heard. All the above were tried by His Honour the Officer Administering the Government sitting as Judge.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

Two births, one death, and two marriages among the non-Chinese population were registered in 1926.

VII. Education.

Government School (Boys).—The enrolment was 200, as compared with 180 last year.

Ch'i Tung Middle School (Boys).—This school was opened in March, under the auspices of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, in buildings lent by the Government. The enrolment in 1926 was 40, of whom 12 were boarders.

Anglican Mission School (Boys).—The average attendance was about 100, as compared with 140 in 1925. The opening of the new Middle School has doubtless affected this school.

St. Joseph's Catholic School (Boys).—The enrolment was 223, as compared with 241 in 1925.

Free Classes for the Poor.—Twelve classes were held in 1926, and the attendance was 206 in the spring and 316 in the autumn term. The formation of new classes is planned for 1927. The proceeds of the Theatrical Tax collected by district headmen are now devoted to this Society and the amount received by it in 1926 was \$450.

VIII. Legislation.

Two Ordinances were promulgated in 1926, the Opium (Amendment) Ordinance, to amend the Opium Ordinance 1909, and the Merchant Shipping Fees Ordinance, to fix the fees to be taken in respect of matters concerning merchant shipping.

In order to meet the wishes of the authorities of adjoining districts, a proclamation was issued under the Export and Import Prohibition Ordinance of 1920 prohibiting the export of saltpetre without licence. Grain and coinage are the other articles, the export of which is now regulated in this way.

Regulations were issued for the control of native lodging houses, registration of mortgages (Yä t'ieh), and to amend the Quarry Rules and Land and House Tax Regulations.

IX. Agriculture.

Crops.—It has not been a good year for crops owing to a drought in the 4th moon and to abundant rain in the 6th moon. During the spring the rainfall was sufficient, and the wheat and sweet potatoes, planted then, were normal. Groundnuts, the chief export of the territory, were good, but owing to the excessive rain the kernels were too moist and could not be exported to distant ports. Indian corn suffered severely from the drought and was well below the average yield. Turnips failed completely and beans were poor.

X. Salt Production.

The number of salt-pans in the Territory is now 361, covering an area of 5,269.205 mou, being an increase of 11 new pans and 174.9 mou over 1925. The revenue collected amounted to \$986.65, as compared with \$965.27 in 1925.

XI. Import of Dyestuffs.

Dyes and indigo imported during 1926 are classified as follows :—

	<i>Dyes.</i>		<i>Indigo.</i>	
	(cases)	(cases)	(barrels)	
British	—	—	30	
Chinese	40	—	—	
Swiss	—	20	260	
French	—	—	225	
German	82	293	695	
American	19	—	385	
Japanese	55	—	—	
Total	196	313	1,595	

XII. Shipping.

Eight hundred and thirty-eight vessels, with a total tonnage of 943,361 tons, called at Port Edward, as compared with 754 steamers, with a tonnage of 796,351, in 1925. British steamers numbered 485, American 6, Chinese 144, Dutch 1, German 15, and Japanese 187. Junks inward numbered 1,299, and outward 434, as compared with 1,253 and 372 respectively in 1925.

XIII. Trade.

Business was fairly good, and compared favourably with other ports in China suffering from the Civil War. Salt was chiefly exported to Chemulpo instead of Hong Kong as a very favourable price was obtained in the former port. Besides salt, the chief export of the Territory continues to be groundnuts. In addition to the native shops, three foreign firms—The Siberian Co., The East Asiatic Co. and Messrs. W. Niggerman & Co.—are doing a large trade in the export of groundnuts. Salted fish found new markets in Tsingtao and Shanghai, and was exported in large quantities by junks.

The total volume of trade amounted to 1,632,827 packages, valued at \$15,794,586.39, as compared with 1,464,219 and \$12,454,621 respectively in 1925.

The total value of imports was valued at \$10,431,387.30, and exports at \$5,363,199.09. The excess value of imports over exports is therefore \$5,068,188.21.

The movement of merchandise is shown in the Appendices and is summarized as follows :—

	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Net Imports.</i>	<i>Net Exports.</i>	<i>Increase or Decrease on 1925.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Bean Cakes	118,402	264	118,138	—	— 39,268
Raw Cotton and Yarn	2,429,255	11,835	2,417,420	—	+ 637,565
Coal	160,266	3,213	157,053	—	+ 61,953
Indian Corn	261,524	—	261,524	—	+ 181,919
Flour	359,801	3,593	356,208	—	+ 215,114
Fish, salt and dried ...	190,140	177,240	12,900	—	+ 29,100
Piece-goods	2,574,800	12,000	2,562,800	—	+ 1,114,408
Groundnuts	251,258	3,154,369	—	2,903,111	+ 697,904
Groundnut Oil	811,680	1,141,482	—	329,802	+ 291,270
Millet	103,938	12,900	91,038	—	+ 57,391
Kerosene	103,842	475	103,367	—	— 25,973
Provisions	139,550	9,750	129,800	—	+ 46,920
Rice	396,422	13,330	383,092	—	+ 105,728
Paper	122,555	1,625	120,930	—	+ 16,925
Salt	240	97,960	—	97,720	+ 23,597
Sugar and Sugar-cane...	209,440	105,954	103,486	—	— 149,708
Timber	141,921	27,642	114,279	—	+ 21,034
Tobacco and Cigarettes	330,145	13,220	216,925	—	+ 207,594
Leather	9,200	800	8,400	—	— 9,260

Industries.—The making of silk hosiery, lace, and embroidery remains steady, and employed many women and girls from the districts round Port Edward. This industry, however, is not very profitable owing to the high price of cocoons and the low

quality of silk produced, which decreases the demand. Besides, however, exporting it to other parts of China, a small market in America has been discovered. It is worthy of note that Russian mercerised embroidery thread, "Bear" trademark, has this year appeared on the local market. The quality appears to be equal to that of the English thread, and the price is considerably cheaper. The salting of fish has greatly increased, owing to the formation last year of an Anglo-Chinese fishing company and also to the local firms buying or acting as agents for motor fishing-boats on observing the success of the above company. The fish is now lightly salted and exported to Shanghai, where a market has been found, instead of heavily salting it and exporting to Hong Kong, as was formerly the case.

XIV. Medical.

General Health.—The health of the civilian foreign community, both resident and visiting, was excellent, and no epidemic occurred. Two cases of measles of a severe type were imported, but these made a good recovery and the infection did not spread. One death of a child (a visitor) occurred on the Island from acute dysentery.

The health of the native population was also good; a number of mild cases of smallpox occurred in the spring in the outlying villages, but there was no other epidemic, although intestinal diseases were more numerous than usual, the total treated at the three hospitals being 377, as against 156 in the previous year. This is the natural corollary to a wet summer, as the increased moisture encourages the breeding of flies.

Hospitals.—The total number of new patients at the three hospitals was 15,112 (15,058 in 1925), while 240 in-patients were treated. The operations performed under chloroform numbered 166 (165 in 1925), and under cocaine 39, while 578 minor operations without anæsthetic, including tooth extractions, were recorded. Twenty-seven obstetrical cases were attended, mostly in their own homes.

Four deaths occurred in the Civil Hospital, one after operation for stone in the bladder, and one after operation for a tubercular abscess of the abdominal wall, the other two being medical cases, one a patient with diarrhœa of long standing, and the other a case of heart disease. One death occurred in the Island Hospital from tetanus following gangrene from frost-bitten feet.

Kala-azar.—Seventy-six new cases of Kala-azar were treated in the hospitals (100 in 1925), and fifteen were carried over from the previous year. The total number of injections given for this disease was 796, as compared with 438 in 1925, which shows that this treatment is appreciated by the patients. The youngest case was 6 years of age, and the oldest 55. The latest researches from India tend to show that the sandfly is the intermediate host in this disease and that man himself is the reservoir.

Smallpox and Vaccination.—Two cases of smallpox were treated in Port Edward and seven at Wen Chuan Tang. The vaccinations performed in the hospitals numbered 3,119, and the public vaccinators toured the villages and vaccinated 8,228 persons during March, April, and May. This gives a total of 11,347 vaccinations, as against 7,074 in 1925.

Medico-legal.—Thirty-four cases of poisoning were treated at Port Edward Hospital and twenty-six at Wen Chuan Tang. Arsenic and phosphorus were the poisons used, the former in attempted murder cases and the latter in suicides.

One interesting case was the suicide of a man by cutting his throat with a chopper—a quite unusual method among the Chinese—and, as no witnesses were available, the decision between murder and suicide had to rest on the medical evidence.

In May the body of a powerful man of about 50 years of age was found lying stark naked in the bed of a shallow stream; post-mortem examination showed numerous bruises, scratches, and abrasions on the surface of the body and a small superficial hæmorrhage of the cerebrum, but no fracture of the skull. The cerebral hæmorrhage would no doubt have been sufficient to cause unconsciousness but not death, and it must be assumed that this was due to exposure of the naked body to the chill night air. There is very little doubt that this was a case of murder, but the assailant or assailants were not discovered.

A similar case was that of a man who had been violently assaulted with the result that the lower jaw was fractured, a portion of the upper jaw broken off and a number of his teeth scattered on the ground. Death was apparently due to hæmorrhage following the injuries to the face, but the crime could not be brought home to anyone.

Cholera in Neighbouring Ports.—Owing to the recrudescence of cholera in the southern ports during the hot weather, Canton was declared infected on 10th July, Shanghai on 22nd July, and Tsingtao on 26th August, while a small outbreak of the same disease at Antung led to that port being similarly declared infected on 21st September. Quarantine in respect of the southern ports was removed on 2nd October, and in respect of Antung on 9th October. Arrangements were made for the erection of a temporary matshed hospital should any cholera-infected patients be landed here, but fortunately only one case of this disease was discovered on medical inspection of the ships arriving from these ports, and he made a slow but successful recovery in hospital. One vessel sent a sick man ashore after pratique had been granted, but the patient died before reaching the wharf and a post-mortem examination proved that he had died of cholera. This incident resulted in a prosecution for concealment of the case, with conviction and punishment of the offenders.

XV. Meteorological.

The year was somewhat wetter than the average, the total rainfall amounting to 37.12 inches, August being the wettest month with 14.9 inches of rain, of which 8.50 inches fell in one day. The average for the previous twenty years was 26.5 inches, with a range of 47.7 inches (1914) to 15.5 inches (1918). No rain fell on 289 days of the year.

The highest temperature recorded was 98° F. on 10th August, and the lowest 12° F. on 8th December ; these figures are identical with those recorded in 1925 and do not differ materially from the average for past years.

The highest barometer reading obtained during the year was 30.69 in December, and the lowest 29.36 in June, the average monthly range being .644.

W. RUSSELL BROWN,

Officer Administering the Government.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

WEIHAIWEI.

15th February, 1927.

Appendix I.**TABLE OF TOTAL VOLUME AND VALUE OF TRADE, 1926.**

					<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
						\$
Imports by Steamers	...	...	...	...	419,384	7,797,692
Imports by Junks	...	...	...	...	446,894	2,633,695
Total Imports	...	...	...	...	866,278	10,431,387
Exports by Steamers	...	...	...	...	687,454	4,904,661
Exports by Junks	...	...	...	...	79,094	458,538
Total Exports	...	...	...	...	766,548	5,363,199
Total Trade	...	...	...	...	1,632,826	15,794,586
<i>Note.</i> —(1) Total Steamer Trade	...	...	...	...	...	12,702,353
(2) Total Junk Trade	...	...	...	...	...	3,092,233
(3) Excess of Imports over Exports	...	...	...	...	...	5,068,188·21

Appendix II.

TABLE OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS, 1926.

Commodity.	By Steamers.		By Junks.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		\$		\$		\$
Beans, bags... ..	5,357	37,499	3,513	17,565	8,870	55,064
Bean cake, pieces ...	23,819	47,638	35,382	70,764	59,201	118,402
Bean oil, tins ...	800	8,000	2,929	29,290	3,729	37,290
Candles, cases ...	2,965	11,860	304	1,216	3,269	13,076
Cement, casks ...	1,290	7,740	1,121	6,726	2,411	14,466
China and earthen- ware, packages	35	175	5,207	26,035	5,242	26,210
Cigarettes, cases ...	2,487	298,440	—	—	2,487	298,440
Coal, tons ...	8,294	140,998	1,134	19,278	9,423	160,276
Cotton, raw, bales ...	1,763	79,335	156	7,020	1,919	86,355
Cotton yarn, bales	11,683	2,336,600	74	13,320	11,757	2,349,920
Cocoons, bales ...	42	6,300	50	7,500	92	13,800
Dollars, cases ...	29	116,000	—	—	29	116,000
Dyes, casks ...	2,126	74,410	40	1,400	2,166	75,810
Fish (salt and dried), baskets	197	3,940	9,310	186,200	9,507	190,140
Flour, bags ...	55,584	308,102	14,361	51,699	99,945	359,801
Ginseng, cases ...	4	12,000	—	—	4	12,000
Groundnuts, bags ...	—	—	12,514	62,570	12,514	62,570
Groundnuts, shelled, bags	70	840	15,654	187,848	15,724	188,688
Groundnut oil, tins	—	—	135,280	811,680	135,280	811,680
Gunny bags, bales ...	2,618	209,440	87	6,960	2,705	216,400
Hemp, bales ...	1,372	27,440	545	10,900	1,917	38,340
Iron sheets, pieces	452	27,120	59	3,540	511	30,660
Iron, old, pieces ...	2,221	11,105	2,945	14,725	5,166	25,830
Kaoliang, bags ...	1,814	7,256	1,364	5,456	3,178	12,712
Kerosene, cases ...	3,244	17,517	15,986	86,324	19,230	103,841
Leather, bales ...	92	9,200	—	—	92	9,200
Maize, bags ...	2,956	17,736	60,947	243,788	63,903	261,524
Matches, cases ...	182	1,092	5,478	32,863	5,660	33,960
Medicines, cases ...	411	20,550	216	10,800	627	31,350
Millet, bags ...	1,095	8,760	15,863	95,178	16,958	103,938
Paper, cases ...	16,542	82,710	7,969	39,845	24,511	122,555
Provisions, cases ...	2,313	138,780	77	770	2,390	139,550
Piece-goods, packages	12,874	2,574,800	12	2,400	12,886	2,577,200
Rice, bags ...	24,862	372,930	1,678	23,492	26,540	396,422
Salt, piculs ...	—	—	480	240	480	240
Silk and Satin, cases	24	9,600	—	—	24	9,600
Soap, cases ...	1,375	5,500	190	760	1,565	6,260
Soda-ash, cases ...	824	8,240	213	2,130	1,037	10,370
Sugar, bags ...	17,404	208,848	31	372	17,435	209,220
Timber, cub. ft. ...	141,995	127,796	15,695	14,125	157,690	141,921
Tobacco, cases ...	909	18,180	46	920	955	19,100
Tobacco, dust ...	1,897	9,485	250	2,500	2,147	11,985
Wine, Chinese, jars	390	5,070	25,926	311,112	26,316	316,182
Wine, foreign, cases	1,036	25,900	180	3,600	1,216	29,500
Wood oil, casks ...	440	8,800	70	1,400	510	10,200

Appendix III.

TABLE OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS, 1926.

Commodity.	By Steamers.		By Junks.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value. \$	Quantity.	Value. \$	Quantity.	Value. \$
Beans, bags... ..	277	1,939	635	3,265	930	5,204
Bean cakes, pieces ...	—	—	132	264	132	264
Bean oil, barrels ...	813	8,130	868	8,680	1,681	16,810
Bean paste, tins ...	249	1,245	1,491	7,455	1,740	8,700
Cotton, raw, bales ...	—	—	59	2,655	59	2,655
Cotton, yarn, bales ...	—	—	51	9,180	51	9,180
Cement, casks ...	—	—	41	246	41	246
Dollars, cases ...	25	100,000	—	—	25	100,000
Earthenwares, pack- ages	—	—	149	745	149	745
Eggs, cases	12,449	124,490	218	2,180	12,667	126,670
Fish (salt and dried), baskets	3,350	107,000	3,512	70,240	8,862	177,240
Flour, bags	—	—	998	3,593	998	3,593
Ginseng, cases ...	2	6,000	—	—	2	6,000
Groundnuts, bags ...	18,643	93,215	10	50	18,653	93,265
Groundnuts, shelled, bags	248,812	2,985,744	6,280	75,360	255,092	3,061,104
Groundnut oil, tins	188,535	1,131,210	1,712	10,272	190,247	1,141,482
Iron, old, piculs ...	162	810	2,311	11,555	2,473	12,365
Kerosene oil, cases...	—	—	88	475	88	475
Leather, bales ...	8	800	—	—	8	800
Maize, piculs	—	—	4,644	18,576	4,644	18,576
Millet, piculs	—	—	2,150	12,900	2,150	12,900
Medicines, cases ...	121	6,050	133	6,650	254	12,700
Rice, bags	100	1,500	845	11,830	945	13,330
Salt, piculs	195,034	97,517	885	442	195,919	97,959
Sugar, bags	—	—	8,429	101,148	8,429	101,148
Sugar-candy, bags ...	—	—	593	3,558	593	3,558
Sassons, boxes ...	1,029	51,450	—	—	1,029	51,450
Silk, bales	60	24,000	—	—	60	24,000
Wheat, bags	—	—	480	2,880	480	2,880

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289 1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1926, No. 1330 9d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1926, No. 1336 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1925, No. 1334 .. 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 .. 1s.	NIGERIA, 1926, No. 1335 1s. 3d.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1331 .. 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 .. 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1925-26, No. 1333 .. 2s. 6d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1328 1s.	WEIHAIWEI, 1925, No. 1295 6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial No. 22) 4s. 6d.
'IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial No. 20) .. 5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial No. 18) 3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial No. 15) .. 2s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-25 (Colonial, No. 24) 9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1339.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1925-26.

*(For Report for 1923-24 see No. 1252 (Price 1s. 6d.) and for
Report for 1924-25 see No. 1289 (Price 1s. 9d.)*



PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927

PRINTED IN THE GOLD COAST.

Price 1s. 6d. net.

INDEX.

FINANCIAL :	<i>Page</i>
REVENUE	5
EXPENDITURE	6
TRADE	7
AGRICULTURE	10
FORESTRY	12
MINING INDUSTRY	14
LEGISLATION	15
JUDICIAL	18
CONCESSIONS	20
POLICE	20
PRISONS	20
PUBLIC HEALTH	21
SANITATION	22
EDUCATION	26
RELIGION	28
NATIVE AFFAIRS	29
ANTHROPOLOGY	31
PUBLIC WORKS	33
KUMASI PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD	33
ROADS	35
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	36
MOTOR TRANSPORT	37
RAILWAYS	38
POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES	38
SURVEYS	39
GENERAL	40

ANNUAL REPORT ON ASHANTI, 1925—26.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Ashanti is constitutionally separate and distinct from the Gold Coast Colony and the Northern Territories Protectorate, but so far as Finance is concerned, all three are treated as a single unit. It is therefore impossible to estimate the Revenue and Expenditure, except those items which are purely local.

II.—REVENUE.

2. The Local receipts from all sources including the Kumasi Public Health Board amounted to £78,195, as compared with £60,018 in 1924-25.

The most important items were :—

	1924-25.	1925-26.
Motor Licences	£3,554	£6,631
Spirit Licences	6,437	8,366
Firearms	623	5,406
Court Fines and Fees ..	8,828	11,953
Rents of Government Lands	7,599	5,734
Mining Royalties	17,090	20,157

The main increases are accounted for as under :—

Motor Licences.—More Vehicles on the Roads and a slight increase on Tax on Passenger-carrying Vehicles.

Spirit Licences.—Country being opened up and an increased Tax levied by the Kumasi Public Health Board in Kumasi.

Firearms.—Law amended whereby Dane Guns are now licensed for their life at a cost of £1, instead of 2/6 every 5 years.

Court Fines and Fees.—By increased number of Prosecutions under Sanitary Regulations and Motor Traffic Ordinance and increased litigation.

Mining Royalties.—Increased out-put by Mines. The decrease shown under Rents of Government Lands is accounted for by the fact that all Rents were not collected at the end of the year; but have since been brought to account.

3. It is regretted that no separate statistics are kept of Imports and Exports from Ashanti, therefore the only method of arriving at an approximate estimate would be from the detailed figures supplied from the Railway receipts for goods carried to and from Ashanti.

4. The Railway receipts were as follows, *viz* :—

	1924-25.	1925-26.
Coaching	£57,916 ..	£54,080
Goods from Stations in Ashanti		
Cocoa	217,824 ..	225,973
Kola	8,539 ..	7,228
General Merchandise	10,913 ..	11,731
Goods to Stations in Ashanti ..	110,447 ..	160,777
Total	<u>£405,639</u> ..	<u>£459,789</u>

III.—EXPENDITURE.

5. The local expenditure of all departments with the exception of the Railway, for which no separate figures are kept for Ashanti, was £474,226 as compared with £379,288, for the previous year, thus showing the large increase of £94,938.

The Principal items of expenditure were :—

	1924-25.	1925-26.
Political Administration ..	£33,259 ..	£39,536
Medical and Sanitary Services	43,155 ..	35,657
Gold Coast Regiment	46,274 ..	49,191
Public Works Department ..	18,855 ..	13,295
Public Works Annually Recurrent	34,780 ..	43,234
Public Works Extraordinary including special works ..	149,107 ..	218,166

The large increase is mainly under Public Works Department, for details of which see sub-head " Public Works " of this report.

The decrease under Medical and Sanitary Services does not infer that these Departments are in any way becoming less active but during the year it was found that such stringent measures were not necessary as in the previous year when there was an epidemic of Plague.

IV.—TRADE.

6. Owing to the rapid development in recent years and to the construction of Roads it is only natural that Trade in Ashanti is on the increase.

Although Ashanti has no Oversea Trade apart from the Colony, it has a large Overland trade through the Northern Territories to the Western Part of the Sahara, in which large numbers of Donkeys are employed in conveying Kola, Salt, and Merchandise Goods.

It is difficult to calculate the actual volume of Trade passing through the Country owing to the non-establishment of Declaration Ports; however, the Police at Kintampo, which is not on the main Trade Route, report the following as having passed through that Station :—

Cattle	8,286
Sheep and Goats	23,998
Fowls	38,473
Donkey Loads going North	25,434
Head Loads going North	25,658
Motor Vehicles	785

The majority of the loads carried by Hausas consists of Beads, Pomades, Cloths, Mirrors, Knives and Haberdashery.

Donkeys coming South are generally loaded with Shea Butter, Dewa Dewa, Native Soap, etc.

Apart from the Railway Receipts shown under Revenue, all other available statistics go to prove that Trade in Ashanti for the year under review was better than in any year prior to the boom year of 1920.

At the writer's request an influential merchant submitted the following interesting report :—

“ As requested I append my views on the trade of Ashanti for
 “ the Government financial year 1925-26. When I say
 “ Ashanti I particularly refer to Kumasi and the country to
 “ the North, East and West. South of Kumasi does not
 “ come under my supervision and therefore any information
 “ I give I could not vouch for. Speaking generally the
 “ Trade for Ashanti over the period referred to has been
 “ on a very much increased scale to that of the previous
 “ year and the volume of trade done can be safely said
 “ to be the largest since the boom year of 1920/1921. The
 “ reason for this large increase is easily explained by the
 “ fact that the farmer received an appreciably increased
 “ price for his produce during the Cocoa Season (*i.e.* October
 “ to March) of 1924/1925 over that of previous seasons since

“ the boom year, and consequently there was a big carry over
 “ of money at the end of the Season which enabled the
 “ people to continue putting this money in circulation right
 “ up to the commencement of the Cocoa Season of 1925/26.
 “ In addition to this, prices for Plantation Rubber soared
 “ up during 1925/1926 and consequently Merchants in
 “ Ashanti were able to offer a sufficiently attractive price
 “ for wild rubber with the result that a fair amount of money
 “ was put in circulation on this account. This is rather
 “ interesting in view of the fact that there had been no
 “ harvesting of wild rubber to any extent in Ashanti since
 “ about 1913. It is difficult to estimate the total value of
 “ goods imported to Ashanti during the last financial year
 “ as this information could only be correctly arrived at by
 “ each individual Firm agreeing to divulge their figures. It
 “ is however, in my opinion, a conservative estimate in put-
 “ ting this figure down at approximately £1,250,000. The
 “ bulk of the Imports into Ashanti consists of Cotton Goods,
 “ Hardware Goods, such as Iron Sheets, Building Materials
 “ and Miscellaneous articles of utility, Drinkables and Pro-
 “ visions in the order mentioned. Whilst on the question of
 “ imports it does seem a pity that such a big percentage of
 “ the essential requirements of Ashanti has to be imported
 “ from the Continent, this being due chiefly to the fact that
 “ cost of production is cheaper there and also to a lesser
 “ degree to the fact that the British Manufacturer does not
 “ adapt himself so readily to the requirements of the West
 “ African Market.

“ A pleasing feature about the Trade of Ashanti of recent
 “ years, and particularly of 1925/26 is the manner in which
 “ the Native of Ashanti is realising the value of having sub-
 “ stantial structures in which he is using such commodities as
 “ Iron Sheets and Cement in increasing quantities every year.
 “ The Trade of Ashanti however is apt to have violent
 “ fluctuations due of course to the fact that the Native of
 “ Ashanti is at present entirely dependent on the produce
 “ of his Cocoa Farm for money with which to buy his require-
 “ ments; this is a state of affairs that should if possible be
 “ overcome by impressing on them how necessary it is not to
 “ rely on the harvest of any particular produce. This sub-
 “ ject is, I understand, under the serious consideration of the
 “ Government.

“ *Motor Transport.*—With the extraordinary development of
 “ Roads that has taken place in Ashanti during the last few
 “ years it is pleasing to note that the Native of Ashanti is
 “ reaping the full benefit. He is going in for Motor Trans-
 “ port himself in increasing numbers every year and of course
 “ is getting his commodities cheaper and realising a much

" better price for his produce. A very good illustration of
 " this is the recently constructed Sunyani Road which was
 " opened for traffic at the commencement of the Cocoa
 " Season of 1925/1926. Hitherto all the Cocoa coming from
 " that District had to be either head loaded to road head at
 " Kunsu or hauled by motor transport to Kumasi *via* Ejura.
 " In both cases the farmer was the sufferer and it can be
 " safely said that in the Western Province of Ashanti the
 " Farmer as a whole received anything from 100 to 300%
 " more for his produce during the last season as compared
 " with previous years. Roads also are now being more
 " consolidated enabling heavier loads to be hauled with the
 " result that Motor Transport is now being carried on under
 " very competitive rates which in turn reflects very much
 " in favour of the Native generally.

" *Cocoa.*—Whilst the ruling price for cocoa during the
 " late season was approximately 20% below that of the pre-
 " vious year this was more than compensated by the increased
 " tonnage harvested. My data puts this down at approxi-
 " mately, 7,000 tons although personally I think it was more.
 " The total tonnage harvested was approximately 60,000
 " tons for which the farmer received on a conservative
 " estimate £23 10s. od., per ton. The tonnage mentioned
 " is for the whole of Ashanti from which it will be seen that
 " the amount of money paid only for Cocoa alone amounted
 " to £1,410,000. The increase in tonnage marketed is very
 " marked but can be more or less accounted for by several
 " reasons. (1) The failure of middle crop of 1925 which
 " materially increased the main crop of 1925/1926. (2)
 " Better facilities for harvesting due principally to increased
 " Motor Transport facilities particularly from the Western
 " Province of Ashanti where in previous years a considerable
 " quantity of Cocoa was unable to be harvested. I therefore
 " think in Ashanti we have just about reached the zenith
 " of our Cocoa production for some years to come.

" A significant feature about the Cocoa Season is that
 " it now lasts approximately four months whereas only a few
 " years back it could be reckoned to last 7 to 8 months.
 " This is entirely due to increased mileage of roads and Motor
 " Transport.

" *Other Exports.*—Apart from Cocoa the only Produce
 " of importance exported from Ashanti is Mahogany Logs
 " but of this I am unable to give any reliable information.
 " Of course wild Rubber is a potential export but this is
 " always governed by the price of Plantation Rubber. When
 " Plantation Rubber rises to the neighbourhood of 2/6 a lb
 " or more it is then possible to offer a price that induces

“ the Natives to bring in Wild Rubber. This happened during 1925/1926 when as much as 45/- per load was paid for it and as a result considerable quantities were exported from Ashanti—a reasonable estimate being 300 tons. Now however that Plantation Rubber has again dropped in price it is impossible to offer a price that appeals to the Native. Unfortunately the converting of Wild Rubber into Sheet or Crepe is a laborious and expensive process and as nowadays there are very few Manufacturers with the necessary Machinery for treating it, it follows that there is a very limited market for its sale and due advantage is taken of this fact when the commodity is put on the market ”.

IV.—AGRICULTURE.

7. As in previous years Cocoa is still the main product of Ashanti and the prosperity of the country depends mainly on it.

The Government has established 3 Agricultural Stations, *viz* :—Kumasi, Juaso, the Headquarters of the Ashanti-Akim District, and Ejura.

The area of these 3 Stations amounts to 296 acres of which 210 are under cultivation. Various experiments are conducted both in indigenous and introduced crops.

In addition to these stations, 4 of the permanent Staff of the Agricultural Department are stationed in Ashanti and their duties mainly consist in travelling off the beaten track lecturing and advising the Farmers.

It is gratifying to record that the instructions so issued are welcomed by the people who doubtless eventually benefit by the knowledge.

8. *Cocoa*.—The Crop was slightly heavier than during the previous year, the quantity railed from Stations in Ashanti being a few thousand tons more than in any former year. The quality compared favourably with that of other seasons.

Extensions and improvement of the Road System are doing much to shorten the buying period, and in consequence the crop is reaped and sold much earlier than formerly.

In the Western Province farmers received as much as 100% more for their Cocoa than in any previous year. This was due mainly to the opening of the Sunyani Road.

9. The cost of transporting Cocoa by Motor was reduced considerably owing to competition amongst the very large number of Lorry Owners at present in Ashanti.

A fair average price irrespective of type used would be 1/- a ton Mile.

As in previous years the majority of the Lorries used is of American make.

10. *Diseases and Pests*.—The Plants (Injurious Pests) Ordinance having been applied to Ashanti, preliminary work was started in August, in Kumasi, by the various European special officers undergoing a course of training in dealing with the various pests likely to be encountered. In October work was started by four of the special officers and in January the staff was supplemented by the addition of two of the permanent staff of the Agricultural Department.

By the end of the year 1,225 acres of Cocoa Farms were cleared and put in order. The progress was much slower than at first anticipated, but with the experience gained it is hoped that in future the work will proceed far quicker. It is very gratifying to record the absence of any kind of friction between the staff employed and the people which proves the latter's appreciation of Government's action in endeavouring to eradicate disease.

EUROPEAN PLANTATIONS.

11. *Abomposu Estates*.—This Plantation consists mainly of Cocoa which was in every way up to the average yield. During the year 65 acres were put into a thorough state of Sanitation.

Certain experiments were carried out in the methods of tapping both the Para and Funtumia variety of Rubber.

12. *Ofin River Rubber Estate*.—This Plantation was reopened during the year after five years' idleness. Sixty thousand trees were tapped and during 8 months produced 80,000 lbs of dry rubber which equals 2 lbs per tree per annum or 350 lbs per acre.

13. *Oil Palms*.—The establishment of plots of this crop on Plantation Lines is not popular with the Natives who consider it waste of labour when so many trees already exist in the Forest. However, it is hoped eventually the Farmer will appreciate the advice and encouragement given by both Political and Agricultural Officers in attempting to encourage this industry.

14. *Coffee*.—More interest has been shown in this crop and there has been quite a large demand from the Agricultural Department for seeds and plants.

Nine persons entered their names as candidates under the Bonus Scheme introduced in 1924, to encourage this Industry and 3 of the entrants were awarded £5 for establishing plots of one acre.

15. *Kola*.—The Crop would appear to have been slightly less than last year. Prices showed no change, the average being 3d. to 1/- per 100 nuts uncleaned, and 1/- to 1/6 cleaned.

16. *Rubber*.—The demand for this product developed into a small boom consequently there was great competition. Local prices were higher than they have been since 1918.

There would appear to be very little demand for lump rubber on the Market, consequently trial consignments of Funtumia Sheets were made and proved successful and the people are now being encouraged to prepare sheet rubber rather than lump.

17. *Foodstuffs*.—Supplies generally speaking were good all through the year throughout the whole of Ashanti. Prices compared favourably with those of previous years.

“ Corn Smut ” did not have the devastating effect which was feared and the later crop of corn was extra heavy, thus making up to some extent for the shortages on the early crop.

It is interesting to report that Rice Fields in the vicinity of Kumasi are steadily increasing both in number and extent.

The Dukusie Cattle Farm continued to be successfully worked and the numbers of the live-stock increased during the year.

VI.—FORESTRY.

18. Demarcation of Forest Reserves has been the most important work of the Department during the year.

The Demarcation of a chain of Reserves following the range of hills from Obosumani Hill on Eastern Ashanti boundary to the Mampong Scarp has been almost completed.

19. *North and South Fomang Su*.—(Approximately 24 square miles). Bye-laws were passed and *Gazetted* in September, 1925. A working plan was made for South Fomang Su, and an area of 1 square mile cut out for farming.

20.—*Boumfum Reserve*.—(Previously known as the Awam Su Reserve approximately 117 square miles). Preliminary demarcation completed.

21. *Ongwan Reserve*.—(Previously known as Nsuta Reserve). The preliminary demarcation was completed. Owing to extensive cultivation and to allow land for farming, this Reserve was split up into 3 areas of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ square mile, 6 square miles, and 11 square miles.

A rigid survey by the Survey Department was near completion at the end of the year.

22. *Ofin Head Waters Reserve*.—(Approximately 3 square miles). Bye-laws were passed and *Gazetted* in January, 1926, and an area was cut out for farming.

23. *Anum Su Reserve*.—Preliminary demarcation started in January, 1926.

24. *Mankrang Ofin Reserve*.—(Approximately 65 square miles). Chiefs have no power to pass Bye-laws, but have asked Government to administer until they can.

Areas were cut round villages for farming and people encouraged to plant timber trees with their food crops.

GOVERNMENT FOREST RESERVES.

25. *The Kumasi Firewood Reserve*.—(Approximately 110 acres). A working plan was made; area divided up into coupes (about 5 acres each) one of which is to be planted each year. A nursery for necessary seedlings was made. One coupe was cleared ready for planting.

26. *Prah Anum Government Forest Reserve*.—Administration was transferred to the Forest Officer in the Central Province of the Colony as it is more accessible from there.

27. *Timber*.—With the opening of the Accra Kumasi Railway a new field for extraction of timber for export was opened up. About 300-400 logs were extracted between Kumasi and Kwahu Prahsu and railed to Accra for export.

Very little was extracted from the west side of Ashanti i.e., down the Ofin River.

GENERAL.

28. There has been very little opposition on the part of the Chiefs to the establishment of Reserves, but mainly through ignorance they are still inclined to devastate the Forest by clearing large areas and it is only through propaganda by the Political and Forest Officers that they are prevented from accomplishing their desire, consequently it is only natural they lack initiative in punishing their subjects for committing offences under the "Bye-Laws" unless brought before them by the Forest Officers.

AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY TRAINING CENTRE.

29. Twenty-eight students were in residence during the year of which 21 were Agriculturalists and 7 Foresters.

Six of the latter having finished their two years' course at the Training Centre were sent for a year to various Forest Officers for further instructions.

The progress on the whole was very satisfactory, the students showing keenness and the desire to understand thoroughly each branch of the subject they have studied. A good standard of discipline was maintained.

The equipment on charge has been largely augmented thereby enabling more useful experiments and demonstrations being made.

The Mutual Improvement Society met weekly and interesting discussions always followed the reading of a paper.

VII.—MINING INDUSTRY.

30. The amount of gold produced during the year under review was 89,878.89 ounces valued at £381,805 10s. 3d., as against 85,893.94 ounces valued at £364,877 for the previous year or an increase of 3,984.95 ounces for which the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, at Obuasi are mainly responsible.

The Dredging operations in the Offin River would appear to have been less productive than in previous years.

The average amount of labour employed in the Mining Industry was as follows :—

			Surface.	Underground.	Total.
Europeans	..	..	48	18	66
Africans	..	..	1,870	959	2,829

These figures show a negligible decrease compared with the previous year.

The Lyndhurst Deep Levels were engaged in erecting Plant which towards the end of the year was working and the gold produced proved entirely satisfactory.

No Mining Licences were issued during the year, but six licences to prospect were issued.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

31. Fourteen Ordinances were enacted during the year.

The more important were :—

No. 3 of 1925—"The Ashanti Administration Second Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925".

This Ordinance adds to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony to be applied to Ashanti the following :—

"The Merchandise Marks Ordinance, 1924".

"The Petroleum Ordinance, 1924".

"The Immigration Restriction Ordinance, 1925".

"The Aliens Ordinance, 1925".

No. 4 of 1925—"The Ashanti Administration Third Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925".

This Ordinance adds to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony to be applied to Ashanti. "The Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1925" and all regulations under section 30.

No. 5 of 1925—"The Kumasi Public Health Board Ordinance, 1925".

No. 6 of 1925—"The Police Magistrate, Kumasi (Extension of Jurisdiction) Ordinance, 1925".

No. 7 of 1925—"The Ashanti Administration Fourth Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925". This adds to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applicable to Ashanti, "The Cinematograph Exhibitions Ordinance, 1925", and all regulations made thereunder.

No. 8 of 1925—"The Ashanti Administration Fifth Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925". This Ordinance declares further and more particularly that the ownership of all land within the limits of the town of Kumasi are vested absolutely in His Majesty the King.

No. 10 of 1925—"The Ashanti Administration Sixth Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925". This Ordinance adds "The Mining Health Areas Ordinance, 1925" to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony to be applied to Ashanti.

No. 12 of 1925—"The Ashanti Administration Seventh Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925". This Ordinance makes provision with respect to Patents and Trade Marks registered in the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 1 of 1926—"The Ashanti Administration Amendment Ordinance, 1926". This Ordinance adds to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony to be applied to Ashanti:—

"The Ascertainment of Boundaries Ordinance, No. 6 of 1925".

"The Education Ordinance, 1925", and

"The Births, Deaths, and Burials Ordinance, 1925".

No. 2 of 1926—"The Ashanti Administration Further Amendment Ordinance, 1926". By deleting from the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applicable to Ashanti, "The Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Ordinance—No 2 of 1919.

No. 3 of 1926—"The Ashanti Concessions Amendment Ordinance, 1926"; restricting the exercise of rights with respect to timber or trees.

The following Rules were made during the year:—

No. 3 of 1925—Licence for the sale of Palm Wine and/or Native brewed beer.

No. 4 of 1925—Revoking certain Rules with respect to Regulation of Towns.

No. 5 of 1925.—Bekwai Market Rules.

No. 6 of 1925.—Forest Reserves.

No. 7 of 1925.—Revoking the Timber Protection Rules (Ashanti) 1921 made on the 24th day of October, 1921 (Ashanti Rule No. 6 of 1921).

No. 8 of 1925.—Bringing the Town of Sunyani under the Rules for the Keeping of Dogs in Ashanti.

No. 1 of 1926.—Revoking Rules with respect to appeals from Native Tribunals, pp. 33-34 Ashanti Laws.

No. 3 of 1926.—Revoking Rules with respect to Registration of Births and Deaths, pp. 84-85 Ashanti Laws.

Various Orders, Proclamations and Regulations were also made by the Governor and Chief Commissioner—the most important of these being :—

No. 3 of 1925.—Order by the Governor appointing Licensing Officers and a Certifying Officer for Ashanti under the Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1925.

No. 6 of 1925.—Order by the Governor appointing the 1st day of April, 1926 as the date upon which the Immigration Restriction Ordinance, 1925 shall come into force in Ashanti.

No. 7 of 1925.—Order by the Governor appointing a Principal Immigration Officer and Assistant Immigration Officers under the Immigration Restriction Ordinance.

No. 4 of 1925.—Order by the Chief Commissioner under the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance suspending Kobina Wusu, Omanhene of Ejisu.

No. 1 of 1926.—Order by the Chief Commissioner under the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance suspending Kwame Poku, Omanhene of Bekwai.

No. 12 of 1925.—Order by the Governor declaring certain Towns and places in Ashanti to be Towns for the purposes of Book II. of the Criminal Code as applied to Ashanti.

No. 2 of 1925.—Proclamation by the Governor extending the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement,) Ordinance, 1921, as applied to Ashanti to Maintenance Orders made by the Courts within New South Wales.

No. 4 of 1925.—Regulation by the Governor's Deputy under the Sales by Auction Ordinance, 1922, as applied to Ashanti, requiring the declaration of the length of unexpired term of lease in the case of sale by auction of a leasehold property.

IX.—JUDICIAL.

32. The number of Cases tried in the Courts of Ashanti during the year under review was as follows :—

	Civil.	Criminal.	
The Chief Commissioner ..	29	—	
The Circuit Judge	51	79	
The Police Magistrate, Kumasi	1,048	3,055	(1543)

Eastern Province.

Provincial Commissioner ..	28	3	
District Commissioner, Kumasi	150	4,647	(3,977)
District Commissioner, Obuasi	400	1,042	(444)
District Commissioner, Bekwai	243	984	(512)
District Commissioner, Juaso	33	185	
District Commissioner, Ejura (Mampong District) ..	74	183	(137)

Western Province.

Provincial Commissioner ..	1	2	
District Commissioner, Sunyani	46	146	(40)
District Commissioner, Goaso	3	23	
District Commissioner, Kin- tampo	19	250	(136)
District Commissioner, Wenchi	8	85	(16)
	2,133	10,684	

Figures in brackets denote Offences against Sanitary Laws.

The total figures show a decrease of 28 Civil cases and an increase of 6,798 Criminal cases as compared with the previous year. The increase is due to the fact that last year the Police Magistrate omitted to show in his return Sanitary cases which for the last 9 months of the year under review were heard in the District Commissioner's Court.

With regard to the cases in the respective Courts :—

CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

33. The cases heard show an increase of 9. Of the total the majority were Appeals and referred to the vexed question of "Ownership of Land."

CIRCUIT JUDGE'S COURT.

34. *Criminal Cases.*—The cases heard show an increase of eight as compared with 1924-25 and an increase of 37 as compared with 1923-24. A steady increase in charges both of manslaughter and house breaking is noticeable.

Civil Cases.—There was an increase of 16 cases in comparison with the previous year and in addition, 8 appeals from the other Courts of which 4 were upheld, 1 reversed and 3 were remitted to the Court below for retrial.

Estates.—There were 10 Letters of Administration and 2 Probates granted during the year showing an increase of 2 over the grants of 1924-25.

Sittings.—The Court sat 97 days on Criminal cases and 107 days on Civil business, and Assizes were held thrice at Sunyani and once at Ejura, Bekwai, Obuasi, Kintampo and Wenchi.

POLICE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

35. Owing to the increase of cases in this Court it was considered advisable for the District Commissioner, Kumasi District, to take all Criminal cases emanating from his District exclusive of the Town of Kumasi.

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' COURTS.

36. *Eastern Province.*—Criminal Statistics call for no special comments whereas the Civil cases show an increase of 13% in comparison with last year.

37. *Western Province.*—The Criminal cases showed an increase of 252 and Civil cases a decrease of 60 in comparison with 1924-25.

38. *Inquests.*—Eighty-four Inquests were held during the year as compared with 70 for the previous year.

GENERAL.

39. In all Courts the main increase in the Civil cases is due to actions for the recovery of monies either lent or advanced for the purchase of produce. In connection it is interesting to record the willingness of people to give security even to mortgage their own houses, but it is obvious they do not realize this responsibility until they are suddenly brought before the Court on a writ of Ca. Sa. or Fi. Fa.

There was no serious outbreak of crime ; the majority of cases was for the contravention of the Sanitary laws and petty offences such as assaults and thefts. Prosecutions for offences under the Motor Ordinance showed a decrease in comparison with 1924-25.

40. Fees and Fines amounted to £11,953 as compared with £8,828 in the previous year.

The increase is probably due to the Police Magistrate being given extended jurisdiction under Ordinance No. 6 of 1925, and to offences against the Motor Traffic Ordinance.

X.—CONCESSIONS.

41. No Certificates of Validity for Concessions were applied for and none were cancelled.

XI.—POLICE.

42. The strength of the Police in Ashanti on the 1st of April 1925 was 245 and at the end of the year 239.

Detachments of the force were stationed at Kumasi, Obuasi, Bekwai, Mampong, Ejisu, Sunyani, Wenchi, Goaso and Kintampo.

The following table shows the statistics of cases dealt with during the past two years :—

	No. of Offences reported to Police.	No. of Police Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.
1924-25 ..	3,006	2,531	2,021
1925-26 ..	3,515	2,792	2,360

The work of the Police has been in every way very satisfactory.

XII.—PRISONS.

43. For the greater portion of the year Government Prisons were established at Kumasi, Obuasi, Juaso, Kintampo, Sunyani and Ejura. In February Ejura was closed and the staff, prisoners, records, etc., were transferred to Kumasi.

The total number of Convict Prisoners admitted during the year under review was 1,252 as compared with 1,006 for the previous year, while the total number of debtor prisoners admitted was 233 as compared with 136 in 1924-1925.

Female prisoners are confined in the Kumasi Prison only. There is very little crime amongst women—the proportion of women convicts to men convicts being .43%.

The construction of the re-enforced concrete blocks of cells was continued at Kumasi and at the end of the year first floor level was reached. When completed the cells will accommodate 108 prisoners. The whole of the construction is being undertaken by prison labour.

44. The Prison Farm at Kumasi was extended. Foodstuffs produced effected a large saving in the costs of prisoners' rations, Corn, Cassada, Plantain, etc., to the value of £550 being grown and used as food. In addition large consignments of corn were despatched to the prisons at Sekondi, Tarkwa and Obuasi.

Long sentence prisoners, as usual, were employed on Carpentry, Masonry, Brick Making and Laundry work.

The chief earnings from the Prison Industries at Kumasi amounted to £922. The health and discipline in all the prisons have been entirely satisfactory.

XIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

45. The Medical Staff consisted of an Assistant Director of Medical Services, two Medical Officers at Kumasi, and Medical Officers stationed at Sunyani, at Kintampo and Bekwai. In addition the Medical Officer employed by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Ltd., by arrangement with Government attends to all Government Officials at Obuasi.

There is a European Hospital at Kumasi where on an average 3 European Sisters are in attendance.

There are 4 Government Hospitals for Africans and one Contagious Diseases Hospital which is situated in Kumasi.

The average number of Europeans stationed in Ashanti during the year was 638.

There were three deaths and 22 cases of invaliding of Europeans during the year under review.

The prevailing diseases amongst Europeans were Malaria, Dysentry and disorders generally of the digestive system.

The invaliding rate amongst officials was 6.69% and amongst the non-officials 1.28% whereas the death rate was .42% and .43% respectively.

These figures compare with one death and sixteen cases of invaliding for the previous year. The admissions to the European Hospital at Kumasi numbered 140 as compared with 133 for the previous year and 113 during 1923-24.

The admissions to the Kumasi African Hospital numbered 2,400. Unfortunately statistics for the other Hospitals are not available. The more prevalent diseases dealt with were Yaws, Fevers, Bronchitis, minor intestinal disorders and Ulcers.

In Kumasi alone 182 post mortems were held. These figures show an increase of 43 in comparison with the previous year.

XIV.—SANITATION.

46. The permanent staff on the strength of this department is as follows :—

European Staff :—

- 1 Senior Sanitary Officer.
- 1 Medical Officer of Health.
- 6 Superintending Sanitary Inspectors.

African Staff :—

- 1 Senior Sanitary Inspector.

47 Sanitary Inspectors, Vaccinators, and Village Overseers.

DISEASES.

47. *Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis*—two deaths from this disease were recorded at Kintampo.

Anthrax—five deaths of an enteric form of this disease were recorded from Kumasi.

Blackwater-Fever.—One European death occurred in Wenchi; two cases were reported from Kintampo District both of whom recovered.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.—An isolated epidemic involving thirteen cases, *all of whom died*, occurred at Ejura in the Mampong District of the Eastern Province during January. One fatal case was reported from Sunyani in the Western Province about the same time.

Smallpox.—Commencing about June an epidemic outbreak of smallpox occurred in the Wenchi District of the Western Province and the borders of the Eastern Province contiguous with the former, involving about 600 cases with 37 deaths. This was found to be due to the practice of arm-to-arm inoculation by the Ashantis in consequence of the sporadic cases occurring during the previous year.

Smaller outbreaks occurred in the Kintampo District and on the Northern borders of the Eastern Province. Some were of the inoculation type, but the majority were contacts. Sporadic cases occurred down the trade routes from the North.

The following statistics show the number of vaccinations during the year as compared with the two previous years :—

	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
Number Vaccinated ..	15,553 ..	20,183 ..	178,263
Successful	7,608 ..	11,829 ..	62,185
Unknown	7,945 ..	9,354 ..	116,078

No cases of Cholera, Plague or Yellow Fever were reported.

48. *Village Planning*.—A somewhat increased staff of Village Overseers being available, a certain degree of enthusiasm has been shown by a proportion of the Chiefs on the main roads for the rebuilding of their towns. By this means sanitary improvements are being introduced into the outlying villages and an elementary regularity in the alignment and more hygienic construction of houses is being practised.

The value of hygiene and sanitation appears to have become more widely spread owing to the increased staff, and in consequence of the various outbreaks of epidemic disease as well as by the greater facilities afforded for transport. The practical lessons will doubtless require constant reiteration before any general advance can be noted.

49. *Sanitary Improvements*.—A definite programme of construction designed to improve the water supplies, slaughtering of cattle and providing of facilities for the disposal of excreta and rubbish has been followed, and full advantage has been taken by most of the Towns affected by these improvements.

50. The sanitation of Obuasi is controlled by a Sanitary Committee composed of Government and Mine's representatives.

51. The revenue mostly derived by small rents charged on Houses, Market Fees, etc., amounted to £5,204 and the expenditure to £4,037.

The committee are to be congratulated upon the manner in which they have prepared and are carrying out a progressive scheme by which the town will eventually be very much improved.

52. *Sanitation of Kumasi*.—The old Sanitary Committee ceased to function on the 20th June, when the New Kumasi Public Health Board came into existence.

The following were the most important diseases reported during the year under review :—

53. *Diseases*.—Chickenpox was the only disease noted to have occurred in epidemic form and that was centred largely about the prison population.

No Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Cholera, Plague or Yellow Fever occurred in Kumasi during the year.

Five deaths from Anthrax probably introduced from outside were noted.

Several cases of smallpox were treated at the Contagious Diseases Hospital.

Tuberculosis in its various forms would appear to be on the increase, 11.1% of the total deaths being recorded from this cause.

Malarial infections continue to cause considerable illness amongst the inhabitants although definite figures are not available. The one European death during the year had Malaria as a contributory factor.

54. *Statistical*.—The population figures are rather indefinite.

Deaths are recorded as 428 compared with 478 for the year 1924-25, respiratory diseases being the largest systemic cause. 45 infant deaths are recorded as compared with 34 during 1924-25. The largest number of deaths occurred during the month of March. A very close check has been kept on the causes of uncertified deaths, 182 post mortem examinations having been made.

Births registered were 581 compared with a total of 439 for the previous year.

55. *Water Supply*.—The marked shortage of Water noted during the dry season of 1924-25 was not as noticeable during the past year, owing to the greater rainfall. No change can be noted in the quality of the water supply. Eight new concrete wells and a 50,000 gallons reserve tank have been constructed to augment the supply. The need for a pipe-borne supply is evident from the aspect of prevention of disease.

56. *Public Slaughter House*.—Animals killed for meat supply :—

			1924-25.	1925-26.	Daily Average
Cattle	..	..	1,834	1,540	4.2
Sheep	..	..	1,925	2,558	7.0
Goats	..	..	2,556	3,833	10.4
Pigs	..	..	345	531	1.4

57. The sum of £416 was collected from this source as compared with £489 for the previous year.

58. *Markets*.—Seven new sheds have been added to the Central Market. The meat market has been moved to this area and fills one of the smaller sheds until a more suitable fly-proof structure can be built as provided in the 1926-27 Estimates.

59. *Sanitary Work*.—A monthly average of 181.2 acres of grass and bush was cut and burnt.

83,003 house to house inspections were made. 5,302 prosecutions for sanitary offences were made during the year and fines amounting to £1,608 were collected as compared with the respective figures of 5,240 and £1,817 for 1924-25.

21,083 Lineal yards of ditches were cleaned.

35,499 Lineal yards of ditches were dug and graded.

60. *Public Cemeteries*.—The Public and Chiefs' Cemeteries in Ashanti were generally speaking kept in good condition.

XV.—METEOROLOGICAL.

61. The rainfall recorded at Kumasi during the financial year as compared with last year was as follows :—

					1924-25.	1925-26.
April	..	..	..	..	4.47	5.28
May	..	..	..	..	3.11	7.03
June	..	..	..	..	5.99	7.43
July	..	..	..	..	6.76	6.77
August	..	..	..	..	0.39	7.86
September	..	..	..	..	6.77	6.39
October	..	..	..	..	6.47	6.43
November	..	..	..	..	3.45	6.27
December	..	..	..	..	2.66	0.14
January (1926)	..	..	..	..	0.06	0.65
February	..	..	..	..	1.11	3.14
March	..	..	..	..	7.67	5.16
					48.91	62.55

The rainfall for the year under review was approximately 7 inches above the average, the most noticeable feature being the fact that there was no "break" during the month of August.

The rainfall at other stations in Ashanti was :—

				1924-25.	1925-26.
Juaso	..	..	..	53.74	58.80
Sunyani	..	..	..	58.15	61.67
Kintampo	..	..	..	59.28	48.44
Obuasi	..	..	..	65.26	54.52

XVI.—EDUCATION.

62. Education as in former years has been conducted by the Government and the Missionary Societies.

There are four Primary Government Schools, 29 Assisted and 155 Non-Assisted Mission Schools. In addition to the above there is a Government Junior Trade School at Mampong, Agricultural and Forestry Training Centre and the Wesleyan Training Centre at Kumasi.

63. The following table gives the number of Government and Assisted Schools, their enrolment and average attendance :—

Description of School.	Number of Schools.	Enrolments.	Average Daily Attendance.
A.M.E. Zion Mission	1	71	55
English Church Mission	2	340	306
Roman Catholic Mission	5	728	642
Scottish Mission	16	1,140	1,052
Wesleyan Mission	5	884	758
Total Assisted Schools	29	3,163	2,813
Government	4	803	740
Schools	33	3,966	3,553

The total enrolment exceeds that of the previous year by 142. This increase would have been much greater had there been the required accommodation available.

The difficulty experienced by the Missions in obtaining the services of certified teachers in order to enable the Schools to comply with the conditions on which a grant depends, chiefly accounts for the small number of Assisted Schools.

There has been an increase of 53 in the number of girls attending the Government Assisted Schools, the total number being 506 or 12.7% of the total enrolment of Boys and Girls.

Approximately 50% of the children attending the schools situated in the large commercial centres are Ashantis. At outstation schools the percentage is far higher and at small Mission schools the children are, with few exceptions, natives of Ashanti.

64. The Statistics of the Unassisted Schools are as follows :—

Description of School.	Number of Schools.	Enrolment.
A.M.E. Zion Mission	15	214
English Church Mission	3	95
Roman Catholic Mission	12	374
Seventh Day Adventist Mission	9	266
Scottish Mission	41	1,094
Wesleyan Mission	75	1,561
Total	155	3,604

The enrolment has increased by 142 in comparison with 1924-25. The average daily attendance is 3,551 or nearly 90% of the enrolment.

The total number of children enrolled for the year under review was 7,570 or an increase of 361 in comparison with 1924-25.

The education provided at these schools is of course elementary, but when the Government Senior Boys' School at Kumasi (which was started towards the end of the year) is completed, a higher education will be possible.

65. *Female Education.*—The Government Girls' School proved satisfactory although the accommodation was very limited; this will be rectified when the New Boys' School is completed, as further accommodation will then be available for the girls in the present Boys' Schools.

66. The sum collected as school fees was £1,355 as compared with £1,115 for the previous year. This increase and the increase in the number of children enrolled is an indication of how anxious the people of Ashanti are to have their children educated.

Government grants-in-aid amounted to £3,870, an increase of £245 over last year.

67. *Wesley College*.—There were 98 students in residence of whom 14 were being trained as Catechists and 84 as Teachers. The management of the college is largely in the hands of the students, and this system has been found to work very satisfactorily.

68. *Junior Trade School, Mampong*.—It is gratifying to be able to report that progress was the motto for the year 1925-26. There were 77 pupils in residence and with two exceptions the boys showed extreme keenness to learn the various trades they have been allotted. A new Dormitory, Instruction House and various other small buildings were constructed of burnt brick during the year. The boys supply all the labour both skilled and unskilled.

69. Several acres of land are under cultivation of food stuffs from which the school's requirements are practically supplied.

XVII.—RELIGION.

70. The number of Missionary bodies remained the same as hitherto, *viz* :—

- (a) The English Church Mission was well sustained during the year. Several new stations were opened.
St. Augustine's Theological College completed its first year's work, which was in every way satisfactory.
A new cement brick Church at Jachi was near completion at the end of the year.
- (b) The Ashanti Scottish Mission continued to do good work. The strength of the European staff was increased by the return of four male and two female Missionaries from Basel who prior to the Great War had been stationed in Ashanti.
- (c) The Ashanti Wesleyan Mission has a European staff of seven Missionaries and eight African Ministers and a very large church membership.
- (d) The A.M.E. Zion. The Minister-in-charge reports that further progress is greatly handicapped by want of funds.
- (e) The Seventh Day Adventists have headquarters at Agona and a few schools in other towns.
- (f) The Roman Catholic Mission has three European Priests and twenty African Catechists. The Revd. Father reports that his Church numbers 7,000 baptized and 6,000 catechumens.

70a. The relations between the christian and the non-christian Africans generally have been good and christianity appears to be on the increase.

The Missionary bodies as a whole are to be congratulated on the very valuable work they are performing.

XVIII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

72. The Provincial Commissioners report that the relationship between the chiefs and Government is excellent.

Unfortunately one is unable to report such a satisfactory condition between many of the Chiefs and the people.

The main cause of complaint is the endeavour to obtain money from the young men through taxation for the alleged debts of the Stool, etc.

There were three destoolments and three resignations of chiefs during the year under review.

The chiefs and the people are gradually realizing the value of land and in consequence litigation as to ownership is on the increase.

There was only one riot of any consequence which happily was short-lived through the prompt action taken by the Commissioner of the District.

Doubtless the people of Ashanti are becoming more prosperous yearly and are beginning to realize the importance of altering their ways by living under better and more sanitary conditions; this is evidenced by the number of better and more spacious houses which are being built.

73. It is gratifying to report that some stools which formerly were heavily in debt are once more solvent, thereby being in a position to restart with what one might call a "fresh lease of life." In this connection, it may be interesting to report that in two years the "Wenchi Stool Trust," which is administered by the District Commissioner, has practically repaid a stool debt of £600 in addition to paying for the education of its young Omanhene at St. Cyprian's School.

NATIVE JURISDICTION ORDINANCE.

74. The working of this Ordinance introduced in August, 1924, shows a steady improvement but is not yet altogether satisfactory mainly owing to the difficulty of the chiefs in engaging reliable Registrars. In this connection a Commissioner writes as follows:—

"It is in the matter of legal procedure that Native Tribunals are to be found somewhat wanting; as however, this is a matter which depends almost entirely on the ability of the Stool Clerk, it is not fair to judge the success of a Tribunal on such grounds. In the administration of justice, which is the most important function of the Tribunal, it may be said that a very fair measure of success has been achieved".

To overcome the difficulty as outlined, courses of instruction for Tribunal Registrars are continually being held by District Commissioners.

NATIVE ADMINISTRATION POLICE.

75. Great progress has been made in bringing this force up to a standard of efficiency. Drill courses are held periodically at each District headquarters under an instructor from the Police force.

76. In September last, a competition in Police duties was held in Kumasi, when 20 teams from various divisions competed for a cup presented by a Commissioner.

77. The following cases were heard by the Native Tribunals :—

Criminal. Civil.

Kumasi District	2	12
Juaso "	261	443
Mampong "	92	302
Obuasi "	225	450
Sunyani "	118	172
Wenchi "	72	68
Kintampo "	46	80
Goaso "	96	37
Total	912	1,564

78. Appeals from Native Tribunals to District Commissioners' Courts :—

	Heard.	Upheld.	Reversed.
Kumasi District	1	1	—
Mampong "	15	8	7
Juaso "	14	9	5
Obuasi "	10	5	5
Sunyani "	6	1	5
Wenchi "	9	7	2
Kintampo "	3	2	1
Goaso "	2	—	2*

* Includes 1 case sent back to Tribunal for rehearing.

XIX.—ANTHROPOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

79. The Anthropologist (Captain R. S. Rattray, M.B.E.) reports that the period under review has been occupied in uninterrupted field work investigating Ashanti Law and Constitution.

Captain Rattray writes :—

" Ashanti Law is in my opinion based and built upon Ashanti religious beliefs. To have attempted the investigation of the former without a proper understanding of the latter would have added little new to the very meagre and unsatisfactory understanding of Akan Customary Law which we now possess.

" The religion of these people has now been examined in considerable detail; first in "*Ashanti*," published in 1923, and secondly in "*Religion and Art in Ashanti*" (2 Vols.) published in 1926. The work that has been done during the past year on Primitive Law will thus be found to link up with all that has gone before.

" It is remarkable, considering the importance of the subject, how scanty and unsatisfactory our information is concerning it. The source of information has hitherto practically been confined to an interesting book by Sarbah,* in which however he ignored or was ignorant of the influences which had moulded the laws and constitution of his race, i.e., the religious factor.

" Miss Kingsley also had written some chapters on African Law †, which display her usual intuition and sympathy. These works practically exhaust the literature of any value available on the subject.

" The work undertaken during the past year will thus, it is hoped, help to fill this gap in our knowledge. The following are the headings under which these researches have been grouped :—

- (a) Ashanti Constitutional History.
- (b) Ashanti Law.
- (c) Ashanti History.
- (d) Ashanti Folk Lore.

" Under A, the Constitutional History of the greater Stools has been examined, including those of Mampon, Bekwai, Assumegya, Kokofu, Juaben, Kumawu, Wam, Banda, Tekiman, Nkoranza. The information collected has in each case been obtained on the spot. Investigations under this heading include the constitutional usage regarding Enstoolment, Destoolment, Succession, Genealogies, Sources of revenue, Taxation and many other subjects about which our information is scanty, erroneous, or nil.

* Fanti Customary Laws.

† West African Studies.

" In Section B (Laws), the following are a few of the headings (in alphabetical order) under which investigations have been made. Children; Crimes; Evidence; Family; Kinship; Usage; Labour; Land; Law (sacred, civil, criminal); Legislation; Marriage; Morals; Murder; Nature of Primitive Law; Oaths; Property; Procedure; Rank; Revenues; Sections of Primitive Law; Sexual offences; Stealing; Slaves; Succession; Suretyship; Taboos; Territorial and Geographical Divisions; Totemism; War; etc., etc.

" Under Section C. an attempt has been made to obtain the tribal history of each Division. The whole of such detailed records of historical events when pieced together will serve to check one another, and should give us a fairly accurate account of the history of Ashanti for the past 300 years, as known to the Ashanti elders themselves. A knowledge of the historical past of various Divisions should be an invaluable aid to Political Officers in helping them to appraise the probable trend of local politics and inter-Divisional disputes.

" (d) *Ashanti Folk-Lore*.—No serious attempt has ever, I believe, been made by anyone familiar with the language to make a collection of the genuine old Ashanti Folk-Lore tales.* This I have endeavoured to do. The stories were taken down by me in the vernacular. These tales should be a mine of psychological, and philological information. Many of the stories are extraordinarily clever, and I venture to predict will some day take their place with *Grimms* and *Hans Anderson* in the nurseries of Europe. Almost every Ashanti story contains a song, in the chorus of which all the listeners join. These songs have been recorded on the phonograph for examination by musical experts.

" *Photographs*.—Some 110 new photographs have been taken and developed, chiefly of types of the people with whom I have been working. These will be included in the next publication of the Department, and will at some future date serve as an interesting portrait gallery of Ashanti celebrities at this period of their history. In addition to the work outlined above I have been engaged in seeing the new vols. (*Religion and Art in Ashanti*) through the Press.

* I do not exclude collections made by the Basel Missionaries or a work by H. Barker "West African Folk Tales".

XX.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

80. The Department undertook and completed far more work during the period under review than in any previous year.

81. The total expenditure in Ashanti amounted to £204,707 in comparison with £91,326 the previous year.

82. The value of the stores received amounted to £72,261 and the total issues to £71,844. Included in the issues were the following :—

26,032 barrels of cement.

3,184 drums coal tar.

10,678 corrugated iron sheets.

68,577 gallons petrol.

83. The Ashanti European staff in supervision travelled no less than 103,603 miles.

84. *Labour*.—In spite of the very large programme of work the condition of labour in so far as Kumasi was concerned was good but some difficulty was experienced at outstations in engaging Artisans. Unskilled labour was always obtainable anywhere. A census of labour employed was taken in December and showed a total of 5,879 which included labourers employed by contractors on Government work.

85. Government bungalows, plant and machinery were kept in good order and repair.

86. New works consisted of building bungalows, police barracks, court house and offices and numerous sanitary structures, also several additions to both the European and Native Hospitals at Kumasi.

XXI.—KUMASI PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD.

87. The Board was inaugurated on the 1st of July, 1926, in accordance with the "Kumasi Public Health Board" Ordinance No. 5 of 1925.

The Board consists of 10 members, 5 of whom are appointed by the Chief Commissioner and 5 nominated—two by the Kumasi Chamber of Commerce, two by the Kumasi Council of Chiefs and one by the Chief Commissioner.

A very large cocoa store and yard were bought and converted into necessary offices, stores, etc., at a total cost of £6,250.

The Board meets three times a month when matters of importance and finance are discussed.

88. The permanent staff is as follows :—

- 1 Town Engineer.
- 2 Assistant Engineers.
- 1 European Foreman.
- 2 European Building Inspectors.
- 16 African Clerks.

89. The main source of revenue is that of ground rents. In the commercial centre plots are leased at £1 per foot frontage and old leases are renewed at an increased rate of 20% on the original rent.

90. In the beginning there was a slight opposition on the part of the Africans against the introduction of new forms of taxation such as the Property Transfer Duty Tax, but it is gratifying to report that contentment is restored, the people realizing the improvement to the town is for their own benefit.

91. The town has been divided into districts and re-assessed as follows :—

- A. 1st Class Business area.
- B. 1st Class Residential sites for European traders.
- C. 1st Class Residential sites for Government Officials.
- D. 1st Class Residential sites for Africans.
- E. 2nd Class Residential sites for Africans.

The rents charged per plot of the above are :—

- A. £1 per foot frontage with a depth of 100 feet.
- B. £10 per plot of 300 feet by 100 feet.
- C. Being Government no rent is charged.
- D. £5 per plot of 50 ft. x 50 ft.
- E. 2/- per foot frontage with a depth of 60 ft.

92. Amongst the most important Works carried out were :—

The completion of the *New Central Market*. It consists of 17 sheds or 790 stalls.

Slaughter House.—This building measures 113 feet by 31 feet and provides cooling and dressing rooms and offices, etc.

Lorry Park.—Measuring 500 feet x 50 feet was $\frac{2}{3}$ completed.

Sanitary Structures.—Many latrines, dustbins, and incinerators of latest type were constructed.

Wells.—Nine new wells were sunk and the surface aproned with cement. A start to chlorinate four of these was made. All old wells were improved and covered.

Prince of Wales Park.—The filling in of this site has been held up owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable place to which to remove the railway pumps.

Cemeteries.—There are 3 cemeteries actually in use, all have been laid out and areas allotted to the various denominations and pagans.

Surface Drainage.—A considerable amount of work was done by the Board's staff in drawing up a progressive scheme. It is calculated that by the end of next year the two main drains will be completed.

BOARD'S FINANCE.

93. The total revenue of the Board amounted to £19,461 and expenditure to £12,206 thereby showing a profit of £7,255 for nine months working.

94. The work undertaken and such a satisfactory balance sheet reflect great credit on the Board and its staff.

XXII.—ROADS.

95. The mileage of motor and motorable roads (exclusive of town roads) in Ashanti at the end of the year was 1,019 miles of which the Public Works Department maintained 209 and the Political Officers 810 miles. These roads were maintained in such good order that none of them had to be closed for repairs during the cocoa season.

96. The cost of maintaining the Public Works Department quota amounted to £97 8s. od., per mile.

97. The Tarmetting programme continued and at the end of the year the position was as follows :—

Length reconstructed Metalled and Tarmet					
complete .. .. .	..	..	48	Miles.	
Length reconstructed and Metalled ..	..	18½	"		
Length reconstructed formation only ..	..	9½	"		
Reinforced Concrete Bridges completed ..	..	17	"		
Concrete Culverts Constructed ..	..	137	"		

98. In addition to the bridges enumerated above, the Public Works Department built 8 other concrete bridges of spans varying from 10 to 30 feet on other roads.

99. The actual new mileage of road constructed by the Political Officers was 35, and 40 miles were taken over by the Public Works Department for conversion to Tarmet.

100. Political Officers report that the Ashanti people are only too willing to construct new Roads and so open up the country, but when completed their willingness appears to die when they are called upon to maintain the same.

101. The following table shows the actual amounts spent throughout Ashanti on construction of new roads, Maintenance of existing roads and the conversion to tarmet.

Construction	..	..	..	£23,351
Maintenance	..	..	..	23,666
Tarmetting ..	..	..	..	87,704
				<hr/>
				£134,721
				<hr/>

102. The work of replacing wooden bridges and culverts by cement was continued on all roads under the Political Officers which enabled heavier lorries to be used.

103. The chiefs and people are to be congratulated on their splendid work in keeping open lines of communication practically throughout the whole of Ashanti. In this connection it might be of interest to report that there are recognised lorry routes which enable passengers to be conveyed as far south as the coast and 300 miles north at an average cost of 1½d. a mile.

XXIII.—KUMASI ELECTRIC SUPPLY.

104. *Kumasi Supply*.—A draft scheme for an Electric Light and Power Supply for Kumasi put forward by the Electrical Branch, Public Works Department, was approved by the Secretary of State in July, 1925. Details of the scheme were sent home in August and as these were approved by cablegram, all necessary drawing and indents were prepared and sent forward to the Crown Agents for the Colonies by the middle of December, 1925.

The power plant is to consist of three National Vertical Cold Starting Crude Oil Engines, and three-wire electric generators; the cooling arrangement being effected by a Heenan Mechanical Cooler. An aerial system of distribution is to be adopted.

The Electrical Engineer arrived in Kumasi in February, and the staff for the work has been organised.

At the end of the financial year the offices, garage and site for Power Station were completed. First consignments of material have been received so that installation on a large scale should commence by the beginning of the financial year 1926-27.

It is hoped to have the supply open for Government requirements, officials' bungalows and the general public by the end of March, 1927.

XXIV.—MOTOR TRANSPORT.

105. The Government fleet of vehicles at Kumasi on the 31st March was one touring car and 9 lorries, 3 of which were old 7 cwt. Fords converted into Tonners.

The Department is run on Commercial lines and for the year under review showed a net profit of £2,725.

The total mileage covered by the vehicles of the fleet was 129,236 as compared with 121,236 in 1924-25.

The following table shows the tonnage and number of loads carried during the year :—

	1924-25.	1925-26.
Officers' loads	10,441	13,018
Government loads	19,961	37,239
Weight of Officers' loads ..	261	351
Weight of Government loads ..	1,983	3,922
Total Weight conveyed ..	2,244	4,273

Vehicles had to be hired from contractors as heretofore and £14,809 was paid for this service as compared with £5,125 for the previous year. The large increase was mainly incurred in bringing the various chiefs and their followers from the Northern Territories and outlying villages of Ashanti to Kumasi during the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

In addition to administering his department the Transport Officer carried out driving and efficiency tests and issued 243 Competency Certificates and tested 464 governors on commercial lorries.

The staff of this department is to be congratulated on a satisfactory year's work.

XXV.—RAILWAYS.

106. Taking everything into consideration, the service during the year was maintained satisfactorily.

The use of the heavier engines has greatly added to the quick despatch of produce to the port of Sekondi and in consequence is much appreciated by the merchants.

The outward local traffic from all stations in Ashanti was 64,785 tons as compared with 58,374 tons during 1924-25.

Cocoa railed amounted to 56,524 tons as compared with 54,935 tons and Kola 2,469 tons as against 2,736 tons in 1924-25.

The inward traffic to Ashanti amounted to 41,623 tons as compared with 35,472 tons for the previous year. These goods chiefly consisted of building materials, machinery, cotton goods and tinned provisions.

The Railway receipts were as follows :—

	1924-25.	1925-26.
For goods exported from Ashanti	£237,280	£244,932
For goods imported into Ashanti	110,477	160,777
For Coaching Traffic	57,916	54,080
	<u>£405,673</u>	<u>£459,789</u>

XXVI.—POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES.

POSTAL.

107. *Local*.—Letters posted showed an increase of 17% and letters for delivery an increase of 65% in comparison with last year.

Overseas.—Letters posted for abroad showed an increase of 10% and letters from abroad for delivery an increase of 35% in comparison with 1924-25.

Parcels.—Parcels both received and for despatch also showed a larger increase over last year.

Money Orders.—issued during the year amounted to £40,589 and Money Orders paid to £10,066. Both these amounts show a substantial increase in comparison with 1924-25.

Telegraphs.—Telegrams forwarded and received increased by over twenty thousand or 17% over last year's table. Telegrams dealt with in Kumasi Office alone averaged 12,000 monthly.

Telephones.—In order to deal with the increased traffic, a new trunk line panel had to be installed in the Kumasi Exchange.

A new telephone exchange was opened at Obuasi, seventeen new subscribers were connected to the Kumasi, Bekwai and Obuasi exchanges.

Post Office Savings Bank.—The following amounts were paid into or withdrawn from the various Post Office Banks in Ashanti as compared with the previous year :—

				Deposits.	Withdrawals.
1924-25	..	..	..	£3,565	£3,417
1925-26	..	..	..	£4,351	£3,599

It is pleasing to observe that the amount deposited was greater than the amount withdrawn thereby proving a tendency towards Thrift.

GENERAL.

108. All services were most satisfactorily maintained and reflect the greatest credit on the staff concerned.

There were the following at the end of the year under review :—

8 Post and Telegraph Offices.

13 Postal Agents.

13 Non Telegraph Postal Agents.

—
Total 34
—

XXVII.—SURVEYS.

109. No topographical work in the field was undertaken during the year under review.

The Provincial Surveyor and his staff completed all the sheets at present required of the Kumasi Town Survey.

In addition 4 small townships were surveyed, 9 various surveys dealing with acquisitions and 20 surveys of land the ownership of which was in dispute. The earnings of the Department amounted to £449.

XXVIII.—GENERAL.

110. The outstanding event of the year under review was the honour bestowed upon Ashanti by the visit of the Heir Apparent His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Kumasi on Good Friday, April the 10th.

Days before the eventful occasion hundreds of people were seen arriving in Kumasi from places as far as 200 miles away in order to pay homage and to show their loyalty by being permitted to gaze upon their future King.

After the formalities were carried out at the Railway station, His Royal Highness attended a Durbar where 46 Ashanti Head and many other Chiefs from the Northern Territories assembled together with their various retinues.

Each Head Chief was presented to His Royal Highness and after addresses of welcome were read, His Royal Highness walked round the very large semi-circle of Chiefs and bade them good-bye by shaking hands with each one, an act which was very much appreciated and which will be ever remembered in the future history of Ashanti.

His Royal Highness left Kumasi that night after having carried out various official duties in the afternoon.

111. Ashanti also had the pleasure of welcoming Her Highness Princess Marie Louise, who during her short stay visited all the larger towns.

112. The writer ventures to think that the Chiefs, people, officials and the Mercantile community should feel proud of the enormous development in every direction which took place during the year under review. In particular the inauguration of the Kumasi Public Health Board, the great improvement in village sanitation and layouts, and the increased mileage and consolidation of the motor roads in every division—especially in the Western Province—stand out as landmarks in the history of Ashanti.

113. If the rate of progress which has been achieved is maintained at its present high level, the future prosperity of Ashanti is assured.

F. W. F. JACKSON,
*Acting Chief Commissioner,
Ashanti.*

8th July, 1926.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1340.

SWAZILAND.



REPORT FOR 1926.

*For Reports for 1924 and 1925 see Nos. 1261 and 1307,
respectively (Price 6d. each).*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 6d. Net.

58-40-0-26.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
I. Situation and Area	3
Description	3
II. History	3
III. General Events of the year	4
IV. Government Finance	5
V. Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry :—	
Trade	6
Currency and Banking	7
Agriculture	7
Stock	8
Land	8
Mining	9
VI. Legislation	9
VII. Education	9
VIII. Climate	10
IX. Communications :—	
Roads	11
Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Services	11
X. Public Works	12

No. 1340.

SWAZILAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1926.*

I.—Situation and Area.

Swaziland lies between the eastern slopes of the Drakensberg Mountains, which form the eastern border of the Transvaal, and the low-lying lands of northern Zululand and Portuguese East Africa.

It is bounded on the north, west, and south by the Transvaal, and on the east by Portuguese territory and Tongaland, now part of the Natal Province, and is about the size of Wales, its area being 6,704 square miles. A little more than one-third of the Territory is native area and the remainder is owned by Europeans.

DESCRIPTION.

The Territory is divided geographically into three longitudinal regions of roughly equal breadth, running from north to south, and known locally as the high, middle, and low or bush veld. The high veld portion adjoining the eastern Transvaal consists of mountains, part of the Drakensberg Range. These mountains rise in parts to an altitude of over 5,000 feet.

The middle veld is about 2,000 feet lower, while the bush veld, bounded on the east by the Ubombo Mountains, has a height of from 300 to 1,000 feet, rising on the Ubombo Mountains to 1,500 feet.

II—History.

The Swazis are akin to the Zulu and other tribes of the south-eastern littoral. Up to about 100 years ago they occupied the country just north of the Pongolo River, but a hostile chief in their vicinity forced them farther north and, under their Chief Sobhuza, they then occupied the territory now known as Swaziland. This Chief, who died in 1839, was succeeded by Mswazi II. The further order of succession has been Ludonga, Mbandini, and Blunu, whose son, Sobhuza II, was installed as Paramount Chief in 1921, after a long minority, during which his grandmother, Labotsibeni, acted as Regent.

* In this Report the Financial Statements, which are for the year ended 31st March, 1927, are preliminary and not completely audited. All other details are for the calendar year 1926.

The many concessions granted by Mbandini necessitated some form of European control, notwithstanding that the independence of the Swazis had been guaranteed in the Conventions of 1881 and 1884, entered into between the Government of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria and the Government of the late South African Republic. In 1890, soon after the death of Mbandini, a Provisional Government was established representative of the Swazis, the British and the South African Republic Governments. In 1894, under a Convention between the British and the South African Republic Governments, the latter was given powers of protection and administration, without incorporation, and Swaziland continued to be governed under this form of control until the outbreak of the Boer War in 1899.

In 1902, after the conclusion of hostilities in the Transvaal, a Special Commissioner took charge, and, under an Order in Council (1903), the Governor of the Transvaal administered the Territory, through a local officer, until the year 1907, when, under an Order in Council (1906), the High Commissioner assumed control and established the present form of administration. Prior to this, steps had been taken for the settlement of the concessions question by the definition of the boundaries of the land concessions and their partition between the concessionnaires and the natives. The boundaries of the mineral concessions were also defined and all monopoly concessions were expropriated. Title to property is therefore now clear. In this connection a case brought by the Paramount Chief has been dismissed, on appeal, by the Privy Council (1926).

In 1912, a Special Court was established with an Advocate of the Provincial Division of the Transvaal as President. The other members of the Court consist of the Resident Commissioner, the Deputy Resident Commissioner, and the Assistant Commissioners of the various districts. The Court holds sessions twice a year. All cases are dealt with by three members sitting without a jury. The Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases.

An elected Advisory Council, representative of the Europeans, was established in 1921, to advise the Administration on purely European affairs.

III.—General Events of the Year.

The High Commissioner, the Earl of Athlone, paid a visit to Mbabane during the year.

During the year there were 180 European emigrants and 212 immigrants, the latter being permanent settlers.

According to the census held on the 3rd May, 1921, the European population was 1,239 males and 996 females, totalling, 2,235 persons, i.e., an increase of 103.6 per cent. since the 1911 census. The native Bantu population was 52,761 males and 57,534

females, totalling, 110,295 persons, i.e., an increase of 5.34 per cent. since the 1911 census. Of this total 5,990 natives were recorded as being absent at labour centres outside Swaziland. Coloured and races other than Bantu had increased from 143 to 308 over the same period.

The general health of the community has been good. In the history of the Territory there has probably never been less malaria. Typhoid was less prevalent than in 1925. Syphilis has shown no abatement amongst the native population, but more voluntary cases were treated than usual, and treatment with novarsenobillon was commenced. Cases of all kinds admitted to the Mbabane Hospital numbered 252, and five deaths occurred; out-patients numbered 6,205.

The Mission Hospital at Bremersdorp is not yet fully equipped, but the Government-subsidized doctor and nurses there are doing good medical work amongst the natives.

The Mission Hospital at Mahamba under a Government-subsidized doctor is open, and during the latter half of the year 52 patients were admitted and 1,023 out-patients treated. This Hospital is near a thickly populated native area.

A Government Hospital is in course of erection at Hlatikulu, and will be in charge of the medical officer there.

The five native lepers sent to the Union Leper Institution at Pretoria have, notwithstanding all endeavours, declined to undergo treatment there and will be repatriated.

Natives desiring to enter into contracts as labourers on mines in the Union continued to take advantage of the deferred-pay system, the sum of £12,169 being paid out, as compared with £9,498 during 1925. The number of passes issued was 5,181 to recruited labourers, and 7,636 to those desiring to travel outside the Territory, and a further 3,275 passes were issued to Portuguese natives recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

IV.—Government Finance.

The total Revenue for the year amounted to £92,000, being a surplus of £232 over the Estimate, and the total Expenditure to £111,835, showing an excess of £2,780 on the Estimates.

Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure for the year amounted to £86,677 and £85,471 respectively, as compared with £87,677 and £85,075 respectively in 1925-1926.

The Extraordinary Revenue and Expenditure during the year amounted to £5,413 and £26,364 respectively.

Public Debt.—This amounted to £55,000, made up as follows:—

(1) The Swaziland Consolidated Loan of £72,500 was reduced during 1923 by the repayment of a sum of £37,500.

The Loan now amounts to the sum of £35,000, bearing interest

at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum and repayable, through the medium of a Sinking Fund, within 19 years from the 1st April, 1924.

(2) The Swazi Nation Trust Fund, £20,000, bearing interest at 4 per cent. per annum.

Assets and Liabilities.—On 31st March, 1927, liabilities exceeded assets by £51,222 19s. 2d., inclusive of the Swazi Nation Trust Fund mentioned above.

V.—Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry.

TRADE.

During the year under review the volume of trade, except in grain, was very small. The native crops were not good. Sales of land were effected at fair prices.

No statistics of imports or exports are kept, as, by an agreement with the Government of the Union of South Africa, Swaziland is treated, for Customs purposes, as a part of the Union. Payments due to Swaziland are assessed on a fixed proportion of the total Customs collection of the Union in each year. The amounts so received by Swaziland during the last three financial years were as follows:—

1924-25	1925-26.	1926-27.
£12,633 	£13,860 	£14,052

The above amounts include collections in Swaziland during the last three financial years in respect of spirits and beer manufactured in the Union, as follows:—

1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
£1,024 	£1,225 	£1,293

The imports consist principally of flour, sugar, groceries, hardware, clothing, boots, spirits, oils, farming implements, mining machinery, tools, and general kafir truck. Most of these goods are imported from wholesale dealers in the Union.

The following is a summary of the principal articles exported from Swaziland during the last three years:—

	Quantities in lb.			Value.		
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1924.	1925.	1926.
				£	£	£
Cassiterite Tin ...	539,907	621,600	424,507	59,082	67,722	52,947
Cotton (unginned) ...	373,370	430,000	565,000	6,221	7,013	9,400
Cotton (ginned) ...	72,850	59,725	132,100	3,640	2,984	4,500
Hides... ...	33,644	38,360	135,000	1,298	1,038	3,940
Slaughter Oxen ...	4,478,400	4,681,600	3,334,200	64,688	36,759	44,456
Tobacco ...	240,500	250,190	780,000	7,909	6,981	22,750
Bullion ...	376 oz.	1,308 oz.	1,510 oz.	1,693	5,558	6,342
Specie ...	—	—	—	2,164	5,339	8,600

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The currency is British coin and coins of the late South African Republic, which are of similar denominations to the British. All such British and Transvaal coins are legal tender—in the case of gold coins, for payment of any amount; in the case of silver coins, for payment of an amount not exceeding forty shillings; and in the case of bronze coins, for payment of an amount not exceeding one shilling.

Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has branches at Mbabane and Hlatikulu. The amount on deposit at 31st March, 1927, at the Mbabane Branch was £29,431 as compared with £35,800 at 31st March, 1926.

The Bank also conducts Savings Bank business. The number of savings bank depositors at 31st March, 1927, at the Mbabane Branch was 72, with a total credit of £2,272, as compared with 111 and £2,551 for the previous year.

At five Post Offices in the Territory, Post Office Savings Bank business is conducted. At the 31st March, 1927, the depositors numbered 403, with a total credit of £1,903 as compared with 326 and £1,196 for the previous year.

At the Post Office Savings Bank interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was allowed on ordinary accounts and 4 per cent. on certificate accounts. Interest was allowed at 4 per cent. for 12 months and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for six months on fixed deposits at the savings bank of Barclay's Bank.

AGRICULTURE.

On the whole the year was a poor one for the farmers. Up to the end of December very little rain fell and in many places crops planted with the rains in September were a complete failure and had to be re-planted, in other parts no crops could be planted.

The maize crop was only about 50 per cent. of the normal. The average price ruling was 21s. a bag of 200 lb.

The cotton crop was fair, the acreage under this crop being approximately 6,000 acres. Although the quality of the lint was good the percentage of lint was small, the average being below 30 per cent.

Mr. R. C. Wood, the Cotton Specialist of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, carried out some very useful and instructive experiments in the selection of suitable seed, cotton pest control, and fertilizing. There is no doubt that the work Mr. Wood is doing will be of inestimable value not only to Swaziland but to South Africa generally.

During the year a Tobacco Instructor was appointed. This officer has had experience in tobacco growing and curing in the Transvaal and Rhodesia and the benefit of his advice is already noticeable. With proper methods of cultivation and curing there

is no doubt that this crop will be a very payable one in Swaziland. First-class types of all varieties for pipe, cigarette, and snuff can be produced.

The growing of beans is also on the increase. There is always a good local market, and an unlimited one in the Union, for this crop.

STOCK.

Despite the scarcity of rain, which in parts caused the grazing to be short, the stock remained in good condition although fat cattle could not be exported as early as usual. During the year 5,557 head of cattle were sent to the municipal abattoirs and an average price of 32*s.* to 35*s.* per 100 lb. was obtained.

The cattle are increasing very rapidly and some parts are becoming over-stocked.

There was one new outbreak of East Coast fever during the year, but there were only 70 deaths from this disease as compared with 299 in the previous year. The last death was in June, so that the outlook is very favourable.

The other diseases of stock, viz., black quarter, heartwater, gallsickness, and scab were not at all prevalent.

With continuous dipping and inoculation these diseases are gradually being wiped out or becoming less virulent.

LAND.

Title to land in Swaziland is freehold, subject to the mineral rights which are in some cases owned by concessionnaires and in others by the Crown.

During the year only 17 morgen of unencumbered Crown land was sold in small allotments.

Unencumbered Crown land sold in the Territory is subject, before title is issued, to beneficial occupation or, in the low veld areas, to stocking with breeding cattle, except in the case of allotments to returned soldiers. The purchase price is payable in ten equal yearly instalments, outstanding balances bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

Encumbered Crown land, that is, land subject to prior-dated servitudes of grazing or land rights, is sold to the registered holder of the servitude, and the purchase price is usually payable in four equal yearly instalments; there is no condition of beneficial occupation. All land is sold subject to existing mineral servitudes. (A morgen equals 2.11654 English acres.)

There was a decrease in the number of private land transactions during the year. Prices for freehold land varied between 25*s.* and 45*s.* per morgen.

MINING.

Mining is conducted under mineral concessions granted by the late King Mbandini and under the Crown Minerals Order in Council. No new deposits were discovered during the year.

The cassiterite produced during the year amounted to 189.5 tons (metallic content 70 per cent.) valued at £52,947, and gold amounted to 1,510 oz. valued at about £6,342, as compared with 277.5 tons of cassiterite and 1,308.54 oz. of gold produced in 1925.

Gold mining was carried on for some years at the Piggs Peak and other mines, but, owing to the increased cost of this class of mining, all work has ceased. The Crown owns a few mineral areas, and legal provision has been made for the exploitation of these by the public in the event of payable minerals being discovered. Considerable quantities of gold have been recovered from the Forbes Reef and Piggs Peak mines in the past and there appears to be no reason why further exploitation of this known mineralized area should not take place at an early date in the future. Large deposits of coal exist in the bush veld, but beyond prospecting operations nothing has been done to exploit them.

VI.—Legislation.

The only important Proclamation issued during the year was the Swaziland Pensions Amendment Proclamation No. 13 of 1926.

VII.—Education.

Government primary schools for European children have been established in the Territory, and, at Mbabane, one for primary and secondary education.

The average attendance at these schools during the last three years was as follows :—

1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	329
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	325
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	385

At Zombode there is a school for natives. The average attendance at this school during the last three years was as follows :—

1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150

Archdeacon Watts, M.A., the founder of the school for Europeans at Mbabane, conducts the school for coloured children at Mpolonjeni, where the average attendance during the last three years was as follows :—

1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54

Government grants are given to this school and to another school for coloured children at the Florence Mission in the Hlatikulu District, the average attendance at which was 28.

Boarding or transport bursaries at the rate of 5s. per child per week are paid by the Government for all European pupils whose parents are in poor circumstances and who reside three miles or more from a school.

In addition to the above, the various missions conduct schools and classes in connection with their mission work for natives. During the year the grant made to mission societies for this purpose was £1,000, the same as for 1925. The average attendance at these mission schools during the last three years was as follows :—

1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,532
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,958
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,065

A number of the more advanced native pupils, both boys and girls, are sent out every year to be trained in the Union, at Lovedale, Tiger Kloof, and other Institutes. The cost of tuition and board for these pupils, who number about 13, is paid from the Swazi National Fund, which was created, with the concurrence of the Swazi Chiefs, for purposes of direct benefit to the natives. Each native taxpayer is required by law to pay 2s. per annum to the Fund, the expenditure from which is under the control of the Government. Apart from the regular schools, the natives receive religious instruction from 16 religious bodies carrying on work in Swaziland at 206 different centres. The average attendance at these centres during the last three years was as follows :—

1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,743
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,172
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,160

VIII.—Climate.

The climate of the high veld has been likened to that of the south of France. The air is bracing and invigorating; light frosts are prevalent during the months of June and July. The mean temperature in winter is about 60° Fahr. The summer is pleasantly warm, the mean temperature being about 75° Fahr. The rainfall is good, the average recorded at Mbabane over 23 years being 53.22 inches.

The middle veld is well watered by streams rising in the ranges on the west. Lying as it does some 2,000 feet below the mountains, the summer temperature of this area is warm and humid, but in winter is cool and refreshing. The mean temperature in summer is 80° Fahr. and in winter 65° Fahr. Frost at times occurs in the valley streams, but it is seldom found elsewhere. The rainfall recorded at Bremersdorp over 24 years averages 33.70 inches.

East of, and parallel to, the middle veld lies the bush veld, about 20 miles in width and running north and south through the whole area of the Territory. Many streams come down from the high veld and Drakensberg Range. These streams converge in the bush veld into five rivers. Except for these this area is not well watered. The rainfall recorded at Natalia Ranch over 12 years averages 25·48 inches.

The high veld is free from malaria, which is, however, prevalent in the low veld during some of the summer months. The malaria is not of a virulent type, and is easily avoided by taking the precautions ordinarily considered necessary in any sub-tropical country.

IX.—Communications.

ROADS.

There are good roads to Mbabane from Ermelo, 96 miles; Breyten, 85 miles; and Carolina, 82 miles; and there is a fairly good road from Mbabane to the Portuguese border, from which point to Delagoa Bay the road is very good. This route is largely made use of by motorists from the Transvaal during the winter months. The main port of entry for the southern portion of Swaziland is from Piet Retief, whence roads extend to Hlatikulu and Mankaiana. The main ports of entry for the northern portion of Swaziland are from Ermelo and Carolina, via Oshoek, Barberton (by bridle-path), Hectorspruit, Komati Poort, and Goba. The main roads have been improved by the introduction of piped culverts, but much remains to be done for the betterment of existing roads and improvements in communications generally, for which adequate funds have not been available.

POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

These services are now, by agreement, under the control of the Postmaster-General of the Union, but are paid for from Swaziland funds.

Post Offices.—Proclamation No. 29 of 1916 extended to Swaziland, with certain exceptions, the provisions of the Post Office Administration Act, 1911, of the Union of South Africa. At the 31st March, 1927, there were the following post and telegraph offices in the Territory :—

Postal Agencies	2
Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Agencies	1
Postal Order Agencies	8
Postal Order, Telegraph, and Telephone Agencies...	2
Telegraph Offices only	1
Telephone Offices only	3
Telegraph and Telephone Offices only...	2
Money Order, Savings Bank, Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Offices	5

Mail Services.—The following is a list of mail services in operation at 31st March, 1927 :—

Route.	Times.		Conveyance.
	Weekly.	Hours.	
Breyten-Bremersdorp via Oshoek, Mbabane and Ezulweni.	2	10½	Motor.
Ezulweni-Malkerns	2	4	Foot.
Bremersdorp-Stegi	1	30	Pack donkey.
Bremersdorp-White Mbuluzi	2	6	Foot.
Stegi-Portuguese Border	3	6	Foot.
Mbabane-Forbes Reef	2	4	Foot.
Barberton-Piggs Peak	3	14	Foot.
Amsterdam-Sandhlana	1	6	Foot.
Piet Retief-Mankaiana	2	12	Foot.
Piet Retief-Hlatikulu	2	5	Motor.
Hlatikulu-Mooihoek	2	4	Foot.
Dwaleni-Berbice	2	4	Foot.
Mhlotsheni-Berbice	2	4	Foot.
Hluti-Mhlotsheni	2	9	Foot.
Maloma-Mooihoek	2	8	Cart and Foot.

X.—Public Works.

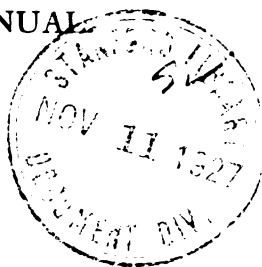
Concrete weirs were built over the Black Mbuluzi, Mzimpofo, and Ngwavuma rivers. There were 128 miles of new telephone lines erected and 36 miles of existing lines duplicated. Ten repair gangs were employed on the roads.

L. J. PUTTICK,
Acting Government Secretary.

Mbabane, Swaziland,

1st June, 1927.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL



No. 1341.

STATE OF BRUNEI.

REPORT FOR 1926.

*(For Report for 1924 see No. 1250 (Price 1s. od.) and for
Report for 1925 see No. 1293 (Price 1s. 3d.)*



PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927

PRINTED IN SINGAPORE.

Price 1s. 6d. net.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1925-26, No. 1339 ...	1s. 6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 ...	1s.
BAHAMAS, 1926, No. 1330 ...	9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 ...	1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1336 ...	9d.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332 ...	9d.
BASUTOLAND, 1926, No. 1294 ...	9d.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 ...	1s.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 ...	1s.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1925, No. 1334 ...	6d.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 ...	9d.	NIGERIA, 1926, No. 1335 ...	1s. 3d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 ...	1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 ...	6d.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 ...	1s.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 ...	6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290 ...	6d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 ...	6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 ...	1s. 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 ...	6d.
CAYMEN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1926, No. 1337 ...	3d.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 ...	3d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 ...	5s.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 ...	1s.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 ...	1s. 3d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 ...	6d.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 ...	1s. 9d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 ...	2s.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 ...	6d.	SWAZILAND, 1926, No. 1340 ...	6d.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 ...	2s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 ...	3d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 ...	1s.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 ...	1s. 6d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 ...	9d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 ...	6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 ...	6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 ...	6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 ...	6d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 ...	6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, 1925-26, No. 1333 ...	2s. 6d.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1926, No. 1338 ...	9d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1328 ...	1s.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 ...	6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 ...	6d.		
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 ...	1s. 6d.		
JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 ...	1s.		

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) ...	4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) ...	6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1926 (Colonial, No. 26) ...	3s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1926 (Colonial, No. 25) ...	3s. 6d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial, No. 19) ...	4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) ...	4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15) ...	2s.
---	-----

All prices are net. Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

REPORT
ON THE
STATE OF BRUNEI
FOR THE YEAR
1926

BY
O. E. VENABLES,
British Resident, Brunei

SINGAPORE :

**Printed at the GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SINGAPORE,
by W. T. CHERRY, Government Printer.**

1927

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
I. FINANCIAL	1
II. TRADE	3
III. CUSTOMS	6
IV. INDUSTRIES AND AGRICULTURE	7
V. LANDS, SURVEYS AND FORESTS	8
VI. LABOUR	9
VII. COURTS	9
VIII. POLICE AND PRISONS	10
IX. POST OFFICE	13
X. RADIO-TELEGRAPHS	14
XI. MEDICAL	17
XII. LEGISLATION	18
XIII. EDUCATION	19
XIV. PUBLIC WORKS	20
XV. GENERAL	21

APPENDICES

A. REVENUE, 1924, 1925 AND 1926	22
B. EXPENDITURE, 1924, 1925 AND 1926	23
C. PUBLIC DEBT	24
D. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1925 - 1926	25
E. EXPORTS, 1922 - 1926	26
F. IMPORTS, 1922 - 1926	26
G. DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS, 1925 AND 1926	28
H. RAINFALL, BRUNEI STATE	32
J. THERMOMETRICAL OBSERVATIONS, BRUNEI TOWN	33

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF BRUNEI FOR THE YEAR 1926

Prefatory Note

The State of Brunei is situated between British North Borneo and Sarawak, lying between 115° and 116° E. long., and touching the sea at Brunei Bay in which lies the island of Labuan.

It is 770 nautical miles distant from Singapore.

A State named Puni, 45 days' sail from Java, is mentioned several times in the annals of the Sung dynasty, which ruled over Southern China from about 960 to 1,280 A.D., and it is practically certain that this is Brunei. In the 13th and 14th centuries Brunei owed allegiance alternately to Mejapahit and Malacca. The Sultanate rose to great power in the early years of the 16th century in the reign of Nakoda Ragam and its authority extended not only over the Northern part of the Island of Borneo but over the Sulu Islands and part of the Philippines.

The first European account of Brunei is that of Pigafetta, who visited it in 1521, and was greatly impressed by the splendour of the Court and the size of the town, the population of which he estimated at 120,000.

Towards the end of the 16th century the power of Brunei began to decline and by the middle of the 19th century it had fallen hopelessly into decay. Sarawak was ceded to Sir JAMES BROOKE in 1841, and concessions were made to the British North Borneo Company and to the Sarawak Government till Brunei has now been reduced to an area of about 2,500 square miles containing a population of some 27,000 souls.

In 1888, the Sultan agreed that Great Britain should control his foreign relations and in 1905, under a further agreement a British Resident was appointed to advise and assist in the administration of the State.

I.—Financial.

1. The Revenue for 1926 was \$367,344 and the expenditure \$297,894 giving a surplus for the year of \$69,450.

Details are given in Appendices A and B.

2. The Revenue exceeded that for 1925 by \$52,083, the principal increases being under the headings Customs Duties.

There was a considerable decrease under the heading Land Revenue, the revenue under that heading in 1925 having been swollen by the receipts from the sale of certain shop lots in Brunei Town.

3. The expenditure exceeded that of 1925 by \$58,008, the main increases being under the headings Miscellaneous Services and Public Works.

4. The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure of the State since 1907, the year the State came under the protection of Great Britain:—

		<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
		—	—
		\$	\$
1907	...	51,777	93,334
1908	...	43,539	75,738
1909	...	54,562	76,948
1910	...	77,051	73,513
1911	...	109,430	79,318
1912	...	140,847	122,762
1913	...	165,082	138,665
1914	...	126,647	163,352
1915	...	118,972	114,518
1916	...	127,615	113,317
1917	...	126,301	106,011
1918	...	125,726	122,958
1919	...	162,020	138,844
1920	...	201,250	223,690
1921	...	161,520	197,469
1922	...	204,504	188,250
1923	...	221,767	189,208
1924	...	257,474	247,614
1925	...	315,261	245,286
1926	...	367,344	297,894

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

5. The surplus of Assets over Liabilities at the end of the year amounted to \$262,736.

PUBLIC DEBT.

6. The total amount of loans outstanding at the end of 1926 was \$424,500. As arrangements have been made for their liquidation these loans are not shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

7. The following information is given in Appendices:—

Appendix A.—Abstract of Revenue 1924, 1925 and 1926.

„ B.—Abstract of Expenditure 1924, 1925 and 1926.

„ C.—Loan Accounts.

„ E.—Statement of Assets and Liabilities 1925 and 1926.

II.—Trade.

8. The value of the chief exports and imports amounted to approximately \$3,276,573 as against \$2,873,154 in 1925.

9. Communications with Labuan have been adequately maintained by local launches.

EXPORTS.

10. The greatest increases were in Jelutong and Dried Prawns. The quantity of plantation rubber exported increased but the value shows a decrease owing to the fall in price as compared with 1925. The export of sago flour and raw sago greatly decreased. The excellent price obtainable for Jelutong had its usual result—the desertion of the more laborious working of sago for the much more lucrative and easier work of Jelutong tapping.

There was a great decrease in the quantity and value of Cutch exported. This was due to difficulty in securing adequate labour to keep up full and regular supplies of raw material.

IMPORTS.

11. There were increases under all headings except Machinery and Salt which show decreases. The chief increases were in Tobacco, Provisions and Petroleum.

12. The following tables show the principal exports and imports in 1925 and 1926:—

EXPORTS.

Name of Article	—	Quantity		Value	
		1925	1926	1925	1926
				\$	\$
<i>Food, Animals and Drinks—</i>					
Cattle ...	head	472	259	17,788	12,573
Pigs ...	"	226	150	8,054	5,598
Poultry ...	"	1,002	408	583	276
Dried Prawns ...	pikuls	768	1,020	38,577	52,763
Dried Fish ...	"	No return	67	No return	1,584
Sago Flour ...	"	4,697	1,686	22,944	8,152
<i>Raw Materials—</i>					
Raw Sago ...	bayongs	371	66	896	152
Cutch ...	tons	2,600	1 892	234,000	189,200
Forest Produce ...	...	...	...	8,137	6,740
Plantation Rubber ...	lbs	1,317,485	1,457,772	1,318,218	1,032,055
Jelutong Rubber ...	piku	15,409	17,211	174,288	295,978
Kajang ...	bundles	3,948	4,622	3,165	3,573
Hide and Horns ...	pikuls	306	307	4,535	4,440
Marine Produce ...	...	...	...	No return	2,129
Sarongs ...	pieces	No return	1,710	"	9,905
Brassware ...	pikuls	112	117	15,734	14,764
Silverware ...	...	...	...	6,057	6,542
Coal ...	tons	676	...	6,760	...
Other manufactured articles ...	...	...	...	No return	4,624
Total ...	...	...	...	1,859,736	1,651,048

IMPORTS.

Name of Article	—	Quantity		Value	
		1925	1926	1925	1926
				\$	\$
<i>Food and Drinks—</i>					
Rice	pikuls	32,910	34,268	242,811	273,649
Other Grains	„	No return	2,025	No return	10,877
Milk	cases	„	1,277	No return	19,432
Salt	pikuls	2,105	2,132	4,330	4,038
Sugar	„	5,424	6,341	50,505	60,506
Tobacco	pounds	81,100	96,963	99,416	119,445
Provisions ... ..	...	...	...	66,678	123,488
Flour	sacks	5,566	6,172	21,727	22,988
Coconut Oil	tins	2,340	2,601	16,056	17,727
Coffee	pikuls	223	328	11,306	16,247
Spirit	gallons	1,941	2,269	12,912	14,732
Arrack	„	360	338	1,337	1,673
<i>Raw Materials—</i>					
Petroleum	gallons	57,144	71,579	35,583	45,206
Timber ... ..	...	No return	No return	No return	8,628
Dyed Cotton Goods ... ..	...	...	...	151,275	116,627
Yarn and Thread ... ..	...	...	...	18,209	25,487
Sarongs ... ..	...	...	...	No return	44,861
Machinery ... ..	...	...	...	276,862	266,071
Chandu	tahils	No return	12,660	No return	28,652
Matches	tins	715	921	4,411	5,264
Other manufactured articles ... ..	...	...	...	No return	209,311
Coins and Bullion ... ..	...	...	...	No return	190,626
Total ... ..	...	...	...	1,013,418	1,625,535

13. A comparative return showing the value of the chief exports and imports for the years 1922 - 1926 is given in Appendices E and F.

A return showing the distribution of trade by Districts is given in Appendix G.

III.—Customs.

14. The receipts from Customs duties were \$177,463 as compared with \$132,682 in 1925.

15. The collections in each District were as follows:—

District			Export Duties		Import Duties	
			1925	1926	1925	1926
			\$	\$	\$	\$
Brunei	...	...	24,652	32,205	46,124	51,250
Belait	...	...	9,732	18,479	15,316	21,500
Tutong	...	...	6,196	14,517	6,965	8,741
Temburong	...	...	11,749	19,820	4,631	6,287
Muara	...	...	3,957	1,616	3,192	3,038
Total			56,286	86,637	76,028	90,826

DUTIES.

The following amended duties were imposed during the year:—

Import—

Baskets	...	...	10% ad valorem
Beads, Buttons, Toys and Tinsell-ware	...	...	5% „ „
Dyestuffs, British	...	...	5% „ „
Fancy goods including watches, clocks, cameras, jewellery and sporting goods	...	...	5% „ „
Haberdashery, ready-made clothing, boots, shoes, hats, caps, looking-glasses and combs	...	...	5% „ „
Matches, per tin of 144 packages			\$3
Matches, manufactured in Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States	...	...	\$1
Motor Vehicles, British	...	...	2½% ad valorem
Telescopes, Surveying and Optical instruments	...	...	5% „ „
Tobacco, Chinese, per katy	...	...	40 cents

Export—

Nil

These amended duties represent a considerable reduction on those previously in force, the onerous nature of which was mentioned in the report for 1925.

IV.—Industries and Agriculture.

A.—CUTCH.

17. The Island Trading Company, Limited, exported 1,892 tons of bark extract valued at \$189,200 as compared with 2,600 tons valued at \$234,000 in 1925. This commodity commands a ready market but there is increasing difficulty in securing adequate supplies of raw material—mangrove bark—owing to the unreliability and scarcity of labour. The labour employed is Malay which is the only labour which appears to have any aptitude for the work but like all Malay labour it cannot be relied on, and in addition the more energetic and progressive workers are realising the advantages of taking up land and forsaking river life.

B.—OIL.

18. The British Malayan Petroleum Company continued energetically to prosecute their operations in the State and it is disappointing to report lack of success.

The operations were to some extent delayed by sickness amongst the Staff and by a fire which destroyed one derrick and suspended drilling for some time.

19. It would be ungracious to make no mention of the invariable courtesy and ready assistance which the General Managers, local managers and Staff of the Company have always extended to officers of this State in all matters.

20. Four thousand and four hundred gallons of heavy mineral oil were exported from the Rajah of Sarawak's Concession at Berembang Island on the Brunei River.

C.—PLANTATION RUBBER.

21. Over 650 tons of plantation rubber were exported but though the quantity exported showed an increase the value was less as mentioned previously.

It is interesting to record the fact that the profit of one European Rubber Estate for the year was nearly equal to half the total revenue of the State.

22. The regulations governing the restriction of the export of rubber were in force throughout the year.

23. There was no improvement in the tapping of rubber on native holdings. Little improvement can be anticipated

until it is possible to establish a properly organised Agricultural Department with a staff of inspectors and instructors. This has hitherto been impossible for financial reasons.

D.—RICE.

24. The rice crop, as compiled from the reports of the headmen of the various districts, totalled 440,000 gantangs. The majority of the rice in this State is grown on high land. There is no reliable record of the area planted nor can too much reliance be placed on the accuracy of the crop figures.

E.—JELUTONG.

25. Over 1,000 tons of Jelutong Rubber were exported during the year mostly from the district of Belait where the workers are almost entirely Dyaks.

26. The price obtainable in Singapore varied from \$22 to \$28 a pikul (133½ pounds), the highest price which has been obtained for many years.

V.—Lands, Surveys and Forests.

27. The demand for land continued and the advantages of fixed cultivation are being increasingly appreciated. This is perhaps the most satisfactory feature of the year, and there is every reason to anticipate that this demand will continue.

28. During the year 5,289 acres of State Land were alienated of which 3,073 acres were granted for rubber cultivation.

29. An area of 2,000 acres was alienated to the Island Trading Company, Limited, for the cultivation of Gambier to be used for the manufacture of Cutch. As already mentioned the supply of mangrove bark for the manufacture of Cutch has fallen off owing to difficulties regarding an adequate supply of labour, and it has become urgently necessary to obtain an alternative source of supply. It is proposed to recruit Indian labour for the gambier plantation and dispense with the necessity for relying solely on local labour as at present.

30. There has been no alteration in the terms for the alienation of land.

31. The forest revenue amounted to \$7,672.

VI.—Labour.

32. There is still a great shortage of labour in the State. The Brunei United Plantations, Limited, and the British Malayan Petroleum Company, Limited, continued to recruit Indian labour and their lead was followed by another European Rubber Estate. The results were highly satisfactory. No complaints were received either from Indian labourers or their employers.

It is a matter of regret to see some Estates still relying on casually recruited Javanese labour of unknown antecedents. These Estates have had continual trouble in consequence.

33. The following table shows the approximate number of labourers employed by the chief employers of labour:—

Race	Island Trading Company	British Malayan Petroleum Company, Ltd.	Five European Rubber Estates	Total
Bruneis and Kedayans ...	500	64	606	1,170
Chinese ...	...	183	54	237
Javanese ...	...	...	152	152
Dyaks ...	...	56	...	56
Indians ...	...	115	121	236
Others ...	...	...	21	21
Total ...	500	418	954	1,872

VII.—Courts.

34. The following return shows the number of cases instituted and disposed of in the Courts of the Resident and the Magistrates in the various Districts.

District	Resident's Court		Magistrate's Court		Total
	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	
Brunei ...	49	29	81	270	429
Tutong ...	3	6	10	27	46
Temburong ...	12	1	49	30	92
Muara ...	2	...	13	11	26
Belait ...	3	14	67	170	254
Total ...	69	50	220	508	847

35. Out of 289 criminal cases 40 resulted in acquittals.

The total amount involved in Civil Suits was \$28,203

There was one appeal from the decision of a Native Magistrate in a Criminal case and the judgment was revised.

VIII.—Police and Prisons.

A.—POLICE.

36. Mr. G. A. McAfee acted as Chief Police Officer throughout the year.

37. The strength of the force at the end of the year was:—

Chief Inspector	...	...	...	1
Sergeant Major	...	...	...	1
Sergeants	...	...	...	4
Corporals	...	...	...	2
Lance-Corporals	...	...	...	4
Constables	...	...	...	49
				—
				61
				—

a shortage of one constable below the authorised strength.

DISCIPLINE.

38. Discipline was on the whole good. Three men were dismissed for offences under the Police Force Enactment and one on conviction for theft.

39. Arms and accoutrements were maintained in good order.

HEALTH.

40. The health of the force was fair. Six men were sent to Labuan Hospital for treatment and 55 were treated at the Government dispensary. The site of one of the Police Stations is very unhealthy and arrangements have been made for its removal to a more healthy locality in 1927.

41. A class was established during the year for the instruction of men in reading and writing Malay in Romanised and Jawi character, and satisfactory progress was made by those attending. Thirty constables passed an examination and were granted proficiency allowance.

42. Enquiries were made with a view to arranging for Non-commissioned Officers to attend courses at the Police

Depôt in Singapore but it has not been possible to arrange this at present as the Depôt is not yet fully organised. Such courses would be of great value in increasing the efficiency and smartness of the force.

BUILDINGS.

43. All buildings have been kept in good order and repair.

The erection of a new Police Station and Barracks at Labi in the District of Belait which was deferred last year, was undertaken and the Police Station was occupied in October.

REGISTRATION OF ALIENS.

44. One thousand and forty aliens were registered during the year as follows:—

Brunei	...	...	...	...	408
Muara	...	...	...	...	2
Temburong	...	...	...	...	240
Tutong	...	...	...	...	42
Belait	...	...	...	...	348
					<hr/>
					1,040
					<hr/>

CRIME.

45. There was no serious crime during the year.

46. The following is a comparative statement of offences reported to the Police during the last two years:—

		<i>Offences</i>	<i>Property</i>	<i>Property</i>
		—	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
			\$ c.	\$ c.
1925	Seizable	... 54	1,546 31	950 01
	Non-seizable	211	—	—
		<hr/>		
	TOTAL	... 265		
		<hr/>		
1926	Seizable	... 36	1,094 27	715 47
	Non-seizable	267	—	—
		<hr/>		
	TOTAL	... 303		
		<hr/>		

GENERAL.

47. Five Hundred and eighty-six Weights and Measures were tested.

48. Twenty-one motor vehicles were registered during the year as follows:—

Hire cars	...	...	...	6
Buses	...	...	...	1
Private cars	...	...	...	7
Motor cycles	...	...	...	5
Lorries	...	...	...	2

and 30 drivers were licensed.

49. Four persons were taken by crocodiles. One crocodile was shot by the Police. Rewards were paid in three cases for crocodiles destroyed.

B.—PRISONS.

50. Ninety-five persons were committed to prison during the year, their nationality being as follows:—

<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Malays</i>	<i>Kedayans</i>	<i>Javanese</i>	<i>Indians</i>
31	20	3	38	3

These figures include all persons who served sentences in Outstations.

At the end of the year there were twenty-nine prisoners in Brunei Gaol and one prisoner in Singapore Prison.

No prisoners escaped.

51. Discipline and health were good. An average force of twenty-six was engaged on public works, chiefly road making and stone breaking. Baskets, brushes, chairs and other articles to the value of \$744 were made in the Brunei Gaol.

52. The Chief Police Officer acted as Superintendent of Prisons with a Sergeant in charge of the Gaol in Brunei Town.

53. Regular monthly inspections of the Brunei Gaol were carried out by members of the Visiting Board and any recommendations made by them were promptly attended to.

The thanks of the Government are due to the Visitors for their services.

54. The Prison buildings were kept in good repair.

IX.—Post Office.

55. The Postal Revenue amounted to \$6,143 against \$4,311 in 1925.

56. The following is a comparative statement of the business transacted during the last three years:—

—	1924	1925	1926
Letters, Papers and Parcels received ...	27,114	29,528	34,747
Do. do. despatched ...	13,654	16,359	18,936
Total ...	40,768	45,887	53,683

57. Details of the business transacted are as follows:—

LETTERS				Postcards	Printed Matters	Parcels
Registered	Service	Paid	Unpaid			
3,507	1,415	12,937	OUTWARD 67	210	610	190
1,186	1,026	20,402	INWARD 484	332	9,586	1,731

58. One hundred and thirty-nine Money Orders were dealt with, to the value of \$9,472.—607 Cash-on-Delivery parcels were received to the value of \$8,338.

59. The service with Labuan and the internal service was efficiently maintained. Internal communication is slow owing to the absence of roads.

60. Mr. LEONG AH NG acted as Postmaster during the year under the supervision of the Resident.

X.—Radio-Telegraphs.

61. The number of messages handled by the Department totalled 4,687 as compared with 3,613 in 1925 and 2,891 in 1924.

This figure is made up as follows:—

(a) Internal service	...	...	1,927
(b) Cable service	...	...	1,046
(c) Sarawak service	...	...	1,712

62. Tables are appended showing the comparison between traffic figures of 1924, 1925 and 1926.

INTERNAL TRAFFIC.

	Handed in at and transmitted from				Total number of messages dealt with	Average number of messages per mensem		
	Brunei	Labuan	Belait	Tem-burong		1926	1925	1924
Government	486	463	109	81	1,139	94·9	75·9	96·58
Public Prepaid	198	327	58	205	788	65·7	45·4	34·75
Total ...	684	790	167	286	1,927	160·6	121·3	131·33

EXTERNAL TRAFFIC
(EASTERN EXTENSION TELEGRAPH CO. CABLE LABUAN)

	Messages transmitted from				Messages Received at :—			Total number of messages dealt with	Average number of messages per mensem		
	Brunei	Labuan	Belait	Tem-burong	Brunei	Labuan	Belait	Tem-burong	1926	1925	1924
Government ...	52	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	63	34	64
Public Prepaid ...	207	...	9	23	698	...	1	32	80.8	64.7	28.1
Total ...	259	...	9	23	722	...	1	32	87.1	68.1	34.5

(SARAWAK BRUNEI SERVICE)

	Messages transmitted from :—				Messages Received at :—			Total number of messages dealt with	Average number of messages per mensem		
	Brunei	Labuan	Belait	Tem-burong	Brunei	Labuan	Belait	Tem-burong	1926	1925	1924
Government ...	52	6	...	2	86	23	...	3	14.3	32.0	22.25
Public Prepaid ...	184	149	586	1	180	115	323	2	128.3	76.4	34.5
Total ...	236	155	586	3	266	138	323	5	142.6	108.4	56.75

The decrease in the number of Government messages over the Sarawak Service is perhaps due to the opening of a Station at Limbang

63. Four Stations were maintained and operated *viz.*, at Brunei, Labuan, Belait and Temburong.

The Stations at Brunei and Belait maintained an uninterrupted service throughout the year.

Labuan was out of action for two days in February owing to the breakdown of a High Tension Generator.

The Station at Temburong was closed on 26th May. This was also due to the breakdown of a High Tension Generator. The Station was re-opened on the 4th September when spare armatures were received from England.

64. The Stations are operated by one man who acts as operator, battery attendant and engine man.

The Machinery, Batteries and Instruments at each of the stations are in good order and working satisfactorily.

A stock of spares is carried so that as far as possible an unbroken service may be maintained.

65. A service with Limbang was opened on the 4th March.

FINANCIAL.

66. The revenue of the department amounted to \$4,580.60. This shows an increase of \$1,910.38 over the revenue of 1925.

The number of words in messages sent on Government Service amounted to 16,130 which at ten cents a word have a value of \$1,613—The total expenditure amounted to \$14,198.60 including Personal Emoluments.

GENERAL.

67. The Wireless Engineer Mr. P. H. F. GEORGE left Brunei on long leave on 20th January. He was relieved by Mr. J. W. MACHAN an officer seconded from the Straits Settlements Government who remained in charge until 25th July when he was recalled to Singapore and Mr. L. R. WATTS also seconded from the Straits Settlements Government then took charge of the service.

68. An apprentice who was engaged in 1925 made satisfactory progress and was promoted to Grade III Operator in October. He is now operating the Station at Temburong.

XI.—Medical.**PUBLIC HEALTH.**

69. The general death rate was 28.29 per mille as against 30.68 per mille in 1925. The infantile mortality rate was 235.4 per mille against 314.2 per mille in 1925. The ratio of births to infantile deaths was 4.25 to 1.

70. The birth rate was 40.15 per mille.

71. Although absolute reliance cannot be placed in the accuracy of the returns on which the above figures are based, they indicate that the health of the inhabitants compares favourably with that of the inhabitants of other Eastern countries.

72. There were a few cases of Mumps and Chicken-pox during the year.

VACCINATIONS.

73. One thousand and eighty-five vaccinations were performed during the year as against 1,258 in 1925. The number of births registered was 1,218 against 993 in 1925.

GENERAL.

74. Dr. H. W. FURNIVALL, M.B., BACH. SURG. (Dunelm) Medical Officer, Labuan, acted as Medical Officer, Brunei, throughout the year and paid monthly visits.

75. The Medical Staff in Brunei is small and consists of a resident dresser and a travelling dresser. There is no Government Hospital. In view of the development of the State the Appointment of a resident Medical Officer is receiving consideration.

The larger employers of labour, on whose estates there was no estate hospital, were directed to take steps to construct a Hospital and engage a Dresser, and at the end of the year the buildings were in most cases completed and dressers engaged.

In the absence of a local Government Hospital serious cases are sent to the Labuan Government Hospital for treatment. In all 91 cases from Brunei were admitted to the Labuan Hospital during the year.

76. Two thousand nine hundred and fourteen patients were treated at the Brunei Government Dispensary and at Outstations as against 2,748 in 1925.

77. The following table shows the principal diseases treated in 1925 and 1926:—

	1925	1926.
	—	—
Malaria	204	174
Constipation	146	95
Diseases of the Respiratory System	110	82
Intestinal Parasites	70	88

78. On the average there were 39 Europeans resident in the State during the year and these enjoyed good health, though Malaria as usual had some victims.

79. One European child was born during the year.

METEOROLOGICAL.

80. Meteorological returns are given in Appendices *H* and *J*.

The total rainfall in Brunei Town was 112.95 inches as against 142 inches in 1925.

There was a period of about 6 weeks drought in February and March.

The average monthly rainfall was 9.34 inches but for the last 4 months of the year the monthly average was 15.45 inches.

The highest rainfall recorded in one day was 7.55 inches on 14th September at Brunei Town.

XII.—Legislation.

81. The following was the only Enactment passed during the year:—

No. 1. The Indian Immigration Enactment (Amendment) Enactment.

82. Rules under the following Enactments were made by the British Resident:—

The Customs Duties Enactment, 1906.

The Sanitary Boards Enactment, 1920.

The Police Force Enactment, 1920.

The Land Code, 1909.

The Births and Deaths Registration Enactment, 1922.

The Lights and Small Shipping Enactment, 1920.

XIII.—Education.

83. At the end of the year there were 190 pupils on the register of the five Malay Vernacular Schools at Brunei, Belait, Tutong, Temburong and Kilanas distributed as follows:—

Brunei	...	...	...	83
Tutong	...	...	...	30
Belait	...	...	...	25
Temburong	...	...	...	20
Kilanas	...	...	...	32
TOTAL				190

84. Two new schools were opened at Temburong and Kilanas. The number of pupils on the register at Kilanas is very gratifying as the pupils are the children of agriculturists of whom few can read or write and who are generally credited with but little intelligence and enterprise. The manner in which they have taken advantage of the opportunity of having their children educated is therefore somewhat surprising.

The Kilanas School was conducted in a temporary building but in view of the support which it has received arrangements are being made to erect a permanent building.

85. The curriculum of these schools is based on that of the Vernacular Schools in Malaya and pupils receive instruction in the Vernacular only. The nearest school at which a fair English education can be obtained is at Labuan but few Brunei pupils present themselves.

86. In Brunei Town there is a private Chinese School in receipt of a Government grant. The number of pupils on the register at the end of the year was 38. This School was previously conducted in a shophouse in the Town but the increasing number of pupils has necessitated its removal to larger premises elsewhere.

A small Chinese School was opened at Labi in the District of Belait.

87. Inche Abang Mohamed Ziadi, Head Teacher of Brunei School, acted as Inspector of Schools under the supervision of the British Resident.

XIV.—Public Works.

88. Through the courtesy of the Straits Settlements Government arrangements were made whereby Mr. W. H. HOFLAND, Officer-in-charge, Public Works Department, Labuan, Straits Settlements also acted part time as Officer-in-charge Public Works Department, Brunei and paid regular monthly visits of some 5 or 6 days duration. This Government is much indebted to Mr. HOFLAND for his services. Local control was, as previously exercised by the Chief Overseer, INCHE AWANG BIN HAJI HANAFI, under the supervision of the British Resident.

It was found that the activities of the Department were increasing to such an extent that the appointment of a full time European Officer to take charge was not only warranted but was a matter of pressing necessity. An officer was accordingly engaged and assumed duty on the 1st January, 1927.

89. An additional overseer with considerable experience in road construction was engaged to take charge of new construction and assumed duty in August.

ROADS.

90. It was not possible to complete the road from Brunei to Tutong. It was found necessary to abandon a stretch of road 2 miles long which was subject to flooding and a deviation was made.

The negotiation of two difficult hills occasioned delay at the point reached in 1925.

At the end of the year it was possible in dry weather to motor $27\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Residency as against $21\frac{1}{2}$ miles in 1925.

It is anticipated that the road will be connected with Tutong by the middle of 1927 but considerable work will be necessary in consolidation and the improvement of bad gradients and bends.

91. The portion of the road already constructed was maintained but the continuous rains experienced during the last 4 months of the year—averaging $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches monthly—caused much damage to portions of the road and necessitated continual work in keeping the road passable. With an earth road, however, it cannot be otherwise.

BUILDINGS.

92. A new District Office was completed at Kuala Balai the headquarters of the Belait District. A new Police Station and Barracks were erected at Labi, Belait District, and occupied in October.

93. The Residency was re-roofed altered and repainted and put into a thoroughly sound state of repair.

94. All Government buildings were maintained in good repair.

WATER SUPPLY.

95. A reinforced concrete dam was constructed at the head of the Waterfall at Tasek about one mile from Brunei Town and a five inch main was laid to the Town. The laying-on of the supply to the shophouses and other buildings will be completed early in 1927. Analysis of the water is very satisfactory and the supply, even in time of drought, will be ample for all purposes for years to come.

GENERAL.

96. The streets in Brunei Town were metalled and asphalted.

97. Seven new shops were completed and occupied by the end of the year and in view of shortage of shops arrangements were made for the disposal of further sites in 1927.

98. The total expenditure of the Department including Personal Emoluments was \$90,809.

XV.—General Remarks.

99. His Highness the Sultan and the Joint-Regents enjoyed excellent health throughout the year.

100. Mr. E. E. F. PRETTY acted as British Resident until 1st March, when on his departure on leave he was succeeded by Mr. O. E. VENABLES who acted as British Resident for the remainder of the year.

101. The death of PENGIRAN ANAK HAJI MOHAMED, Malay Magistrate, Tutong, on 4th April is recorded with deep regret.

102. The year was one of quiet prosperity for the country and the future is full of promise.

103. My thanks are due to all Government Officers for the manner in which they have performed their duties and appreciated their responsibilities.

O. E. VENABLES,

British Resident, Brunei.

BRUNEI, 25th February, 1927.

APPENDIX A.

Abstract of Revenue	1924	1925	1926
	\$	\$	\$
CLASS I			
DUTIES, TAXES AND LICENCES—			
Customs	107,597	132,682	177,472
Government Monopolies	58,975	65,615	73,467
Licences	13,336	15,025	16,337
Poll-Tax	3,598	3,566	3,024
Municipal	10,212	10,534	13,483
CLASS II			
FEES OF COURT AND OFFICE, ETC.—			
Courts	3,951	5,968	3,969
Surveys	639	3,175	4,554
General	6,691	7,191	8,514
CLASS III			
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—			
Posts and Telegraphs	8,283	6,981	10,751
CLASS IV			
REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—			
Land Revenue	26,321	42,986	32,744
Cession Monies	13,369	15,175	15,175
Interest	4,503	6,363	7,854
Total Revenue	257,475	315,261	367,344
Repayment of Loans	10,549	30,312	29,490
Total Receipts	268,024	345,573	396,834

APPENDIX B.

Abstract of Expenditure	1924	1925	1926
	\$	\$	\$
His Highness the Sultan ...	13,380	13,340	13,200
Native Chiefs ...	12,000	12,000	12,000
British Resident ..	14,295	15,396	16,022
Treasury, Customs and Monopolies	8,976	12,276	12,969
Land and Surveys ...	3,139	3,532	5,452
District Offices	7,128	8,028	8,074
Education	2,456	2,770	3,268
Marine	2,695	6,167	9,102
Police	25,859	29,555	29,364
Medical	4,489	5,009	5,112
Political Pensions	4,783	4,004	2,732
Headmen	714	723	754
Interest	18,081	17,666	17,402
Municipal	2,443	2,198	2,508
Miscellaneous Services, Annually Recurrent	32,149	18,281	30,799
Miscellaneous Services, Special Expenditure	33,669	10,339	18,353
Pensions	2,632	2,868	2,868
Posts and Telegraphs	13,687	15,763	17,106
Public Works Department ...	3,264	6,940	} 49,757
Public Works, Annually Recurrent ...	7,052	30,651	
Public Works, Special Services ...	30,223	22,280	
Total Expenditure ...	243,114	239,786	297,894
Repayment of Public Debt. ...	4,500	5,500	5,500
Grand Total ...	247,614	245,286	303,394

APPENDIX C

FEDERATED MALAY STATES ACCOUNT

(A).—LOAN ACCOUNT (31ST DECEMBER, 1926)

	Amount		Amount
	\$		\$
By Loans:—		To Redemption of Monopolies (1906—1908)	72,009
1906 ...	200,000	„ Purchase of Tulins (1906—1909) ...	7,045
1908 (December) ...	20,000	„ Purchase of Cession Monies (1908—1914)	174,377*
1909 (September) ...	80,000		
1911 (March) ...	100,000	„ Capital Expenditure:—	\$
1913 (June) ...	20,000	Launch (1906) ...	20,000
1913 (September) ...	13,000	Residency (1906—1907) ...	8,000
1914 (April) ...	6,750	Government Buildings, Brunei and Districts (1906—1907) ...	10,339
			38,339
		„ General Purposes ...	106,980
		„ Loan to His Highness the Sultan made in 1909 ...	41,000
Total ...	439,750	Total ...	439,750

(B).—REDEMPTION ACCOUNT

	\$		\$
1-1-1926, Total, F.M.S.		Capital Repaid ...	29,250
Loan ...	439,750	31-12-1926 Balance due to F.M.S.	410,500
Total ...	439,750	Total ...	439,750

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS ACCOUNT

(A).—LOAN ACCOUNT (31ST DECEMBER, 1926)

	\$		\$
By Loans:—		To Purchase of Cession Monies ...	13,546*
1922 (October) ...	10,000	„ Purchase of Political Pensions granted in Settlement of Tulin Claims ...	6,454
1922 (December) ...	10,000		
Total ...	20,000	Total ...	20,000

(B).—REDEMPTION ACCOUNT

	\$		\$
1-1-1926, Total, S.S.		Capital Repaid ...	6,000
Loan ...	20,000	31-12-1926, Balance due to S.S.	14,000
Total ...	20,000	Total ...	20,000

* The total expenditure on the purchase of Cession Monies from other than Loan Funds and not included above amounts to \$80,620

APPENDIX D
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1925—1926

Liabilities	31st December, 1925	31st December, 1926	Assets	31st December, 1925	31st December, 1926
Miscellaneous Deposits ...	\$ 4,432 74	\$ 20,032 90	Cash in Treasury and Bank...	\$ 137,339 30	\$ 205,666 01
Land Office Deposits ...	2,334 53	5,398 38	Loans (Secured) ...	46,896 48	50,955 61
Money Order Deposits ...	4,497 80	2,971 57	Advances ...	1,353 05	606 50
Balance of Assets over Liabilities ...	198,784 71	262,736 28	Suspense ...	4,460 95	1,649 89
			Investment (S. S. War Loan Bonds) ...	20,000 00	20,000 00
			Investment Chandu Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	...	12,261 12
Total ...	210,049 78	291,139 13	Total ...	210,049 78	291,139 13

APPEN

COMPARATIVE RETURN SHOWING THE VALUE OF

	Cutch	Coal	Plantation Rubber	Jelutong Rubber	Sago	Forest Produce	Dried Prawns
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1922 ...	172,600	104,160	91,104	46,107	73,757	19,795	44,974
1923 ...	238,000	102,820	363,200	49,881	39,353	37,296	35,390
1924 ...	176,490	98,202	387,794	78,860	27,725	11,257	41,161
1925 ...	234,000	6,760	1,318,217	174,288	23,841	11,302	38,577
1926 ...	189,200	...	1,032,055	295,978	8,304	6,740	52,763

APPEN

COMPARATIVE RETURN SHOWING THE VALUE OF

	Rice	Tobacco	Piece Goods	Sugar	Petro- leum	Coconut Oil	Salt	Mat- ches	Provi- sions
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1922 ...	126,343	55,552	105,248	30,996	28,851	8,477	4,855	4,141	18,093
1923 ...	157,992	68,499	100,298	44,169	29,251	9,817	3,788	2,969	41,506
1924 ...	243,240	79,269	109,987	51,743	27,630	14,122	4,055	4,167	50,439
1925 ...	242,811	99,416	151,275	50,505	35,583	16,056	4,330	4,411	63,678
1926 ...	273,649	119,445	161,488	60,506	45,206	17,727	4,038	5,264	123,488

DIX E

THE CHIEF EXPORTS FOR THE YEARS 1922-1926

Live Stock	Hides and Horns	Brass-ware	Silver-ware	Kajang	Sarong	Other Manufactured Articles	Total
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
18,842	5,249	717	...	...	...	...	577,305
28,086	3,642	2,639	...	...	...	...	900,307
32,806	4,302	8,593	...	...	...	...	867,190
26,425	4,535	15,734	6,057	...	...	...	1,859,736
18,447	4,440	14,764	6,542	3,573	9,905	4,624	1,647,335

DIX F

THE CHIEF IMPORTS FOR THE YEARS 1922-1926

Flour	Machinery	Liquor	Coffee	Yarn	Other Grains	Milk	Timber	Chandu	Other Manufactured Articles	Total
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
9,111	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	391,627
11,874	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	470,463
17,591	191,194	9,807	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	803,242
21,727	276,862	14,247	11,306	18,209	...	...	...	...	...	1,013,418
22,988	266,071	16,405	16,247	25,487	10,877	19,432	8,628	28,652	209,311	1,434,889

APPENDIX G

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS IN THE YEARS 1925-1926
Exports

District	Plantation Rubber		Jelutong Rubber		Raw Sago and Sago Flour		Forest Produce		Cattle	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
	lbs	lbs	Pikuls	Pikuls	Pikuls	Pikuls	\$	\$	Head	Head
Brunei	792,792	807,533	5	74	30	12	5,951	1,475	12	12
Belaït	7,113	9,033	11,833	10,804	2,221	1,164	2,516	1,534	...	5
Tutong	81,469	85,344	2,122	4,036	927	131	1,219	2,182	238	205
Temburong	415,116	530,027	1,449	2,297	2,058	447	1,387	1,362	13	1
Muara	20,995	25,835	...	...	47	...	228	171	219	36
Total	1,317,485	1,457,772	15,409	17,211	5,283	1,754	11,301	6,725	482	259

District	Pigs		Hides and Horns		Kajang		Marine Produce		Sarong	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
	Head	Head	Pikuls	Pikuls	Bundles	Bundles	\$	\$	\$	\$
Brunei	142	125	206	222	3,811	4,622	...	2,129	...	9,905
Belaït	...	...	34	13	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tutong	...	...	53	56	...	...	...	...	...	...
Temburong	1	...	8	7	137	...	...	...	...	...
Muara	83	25	5	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	226	150	306	306	3,948	4,622	No return	2,129	No return	9,905

APPENDIX G—*Ctd.*

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS IN THE YEARS
1925-1926—*Ctd.*

Exports—*Ctd.*

District	Brassware		Silverware		Dried Prawns		Cutch		Other Manufactured Articles	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
Brunei ...	Pikuls 97	Pikuls 109	\$ 6,057	\$ 6,542	Pikuls 716	Pikuls 991	Tons 2,600	Tons 1,892	\$...	\$ 3,069
Belait ...	13	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tutong ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,259
Temburong	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Muara ...	1	1	...	...	51	28	...	...	...	208
Total ...	113	117	6,057	6,542	767	1,019	2,600	1,892	No return	4,536

APPENDIX G—*Ctd.*
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS IN THE YEARS 1925-1926
Imports

Distr	Rice		Tobacco		Piece Goods and Sarong		Sugar		Petroleum	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
	Pikuls	Pikuls	Pounds	Pounds	\$	\$	Pikuls	Pikuls	Gallons	Gallons
Brunei ...	23,855	22,945	51,421	56,206	93,910	93,937	3,366	4,041	15,680	41,654
Belaït ...	3,601	4,725	13,259	18,664	20,578	26,643	645	667	6,988	17,455
Tutong ...	1,113	2,002	6,664	9,756	23,594	28,344	637	769	2,868	5,120
Temburong ...	2,301	2,639	4,774	7,554	7,775	8,183	380	484	1,400	4,350
Muara ...	2,040	1,958	4,982	4,236	5,418	4,380	396	380	1,636	3,000
Total ...	32,910	34,269	81,100	96,416	151,275	161,487	5,424	6,341	28,572	71,579

District	Provisions		Machinery		Other Grains		Salt		Flour	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
	\$	\$	\$	\$	Pikuls	Pikuls	Pikuls	Pikuls	Sacks	Sacks
Brunei ...	25,967	55,374	10,222	26,283	...	1,693	1,270	1,363	3,710	4,264
Belaït ...	21,290	42,505	265,028	238,509	...	14	150	174	642	603
Tutong ...	9,115	8,326	1,612	1,239	...	23	305	206	318	241
Temburong ...	3,964	15,077	...	...	...	27	104	89	492	584
Muara ...	3,342	2,204	...	39	...	198	276	301	404	480
Total ...	63,678	123,488	276,862	266,070	No return	2,025	2,105	2,133	5,566	6,172

APPENDIX G—*Ctd.*

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS IN THE YEARS
1925-1926—*Ctd.*

Imports—*Ctd.*

District	Coconut Oil		Liquor		Timber		Yarn and Thread		Other Manufactured Articles	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
Brunei ...	1,445	1,541	Gallons	Gallons	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Belait ...	486	659	1,272	1,321	...	7,007	18,169	23,554	...	117,161
Tutong ...	196	176	832	1,037	...	...	33	529	...	56,297
Temburong	175	205	70	69	...	...	7	1,349	...	13,632
Muara ...	38	20	104	147	...	1,621	...	...	...	18,143
			22	22	...	...	...	55	...	4,078
Total ...	2,340	2,601	2,300	2,596	No return	8,628	18,20	25,487	No return	209,311

APPENDIX H

ABSTRACT OF RAINFALL OBSERVATIONS AT SIX STATIONS OF THE STATE DURING THE YEAR 1926

Month	BRUNEI DISTRICT				TEMBURONG DISTRICT	
	Brunei Govt. Offices	Subok	Gadong	Kumbang Pasang	Labu	Batu Apoi
January	Inches 17'69	Inches 19'55	Inches 23'79	Inches 14'93	Inches 20'17	Inches 17'82
February	... '10	... '26	... '73	... '05	... '77	... '83
March	... 1'96	... '73	... 2'59	... 1'63	... 3'78	... 4'19
April	... 4'26	... 3'63	... 6'92	... 6'25	... 13'53	... 15'73
May	... 5'93	... 6'85	... 5'31	... 5'52	... 15'03	... 14'57
June	... 8'14	... 9'02	... 8'73	... 5'90	... 8'94	... 11'00
July	... 8'48	... 6'85	... 5'81	... 6'68	... 14'13	... 3'55
August	... 4'60	... 5'66	... 6'58	... 4'94	... 9'58	... 8'17
September	... 14'40	... 16'23	... 13'11	... 10'49	... 24'33	... 15'17
October	... 14'16	... 14'47	... 18'61	... 18'55	... 21'95	... 16'57
November	... 16'84	... 17'57	... 16'91	... 20'74	... 18'11	... 11'60
December	... 16'39	... 18'35	... 18'67	... 15'63	... 28'72	... 18'85
Total	112'95	119'17	127'03	110'81	179'04	138'05

APPENDIX J
ABSTRACT OF THERMOMETRICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES, BRUNEI TOWN,
DURING THE YEAR 1926

Month	THERMOMETER MEAN (In Shade).			Highest Recorded Shade Temperature	Lowest Recorded Shade Temperature
	Maximum	Minimum	Range		
January	83.83	75.58	8.25	88	74
February	86.10	75.14	10.96	90	71
March	88.06	75.93	12.13	91	73
April	88.76	78.93	9.83	91	77
May	88.87	78.83	10.04	92	78
June	88.33	77.90	10.43	91	76
July	87.51	76.58	10.93	91	74
August	88.54	76.61	11.93	92	75
September	87.56	76.56	11.00	89	75
October	86.38	77.16	11.22	89	75
November	85.63	77.00	8.63	88	74
December	85.32	77.16	8.16	88	75
Mean Temperature	87.07	76.95			
		77.01			

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1342.

FIJI.



REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1259 (Price 1s. 3d.) and for Report for 1925 see No. 1299 (Price 1s.).)



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Audra's House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 1s. 3d. Net.

58-16-0-26.

CONTENTS.

PREFACE :—						PAGE.
	Geographical	..	..	..	..	3
	Historical	..	..	..	..	4
	Constitution	..	..	..	..	6
	Local Administration		..	..	..	7
I.	GENERAL	..	..	..	..	7
II.	FINANCE	..	..	..	..	11
	Banks and Banking Facilities		..	..	..	13
III.	TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY :—					
	Trade	..	..	..	..	13
	Agriculture and Industry		..	..	..	15
	Land	..	..	..	..	19
	Survey	..	..	..	..	20
	Mining Operations		..	..	..	21
	Timber	..	..	..	..	21
IV.	LEGISLATION	..	..	..	..	22
V.	EDUCATION	..	..	..	..	23
VI.	NATIVE AFFAIRS	..	..	..	..	24
	Native Lands Commission		..	..	..	26
VII.	INDIAN AFFAIRS	..	..	..	..	27
VIII.	CLIMATE	..	..	..	..	28
IX.	COMMUNICATIONS	..	..	..	..	31

No. 1342.

FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Preface.**GEOGRAPHICAL.**

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west, and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About eighty islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The whole Group itself is situated midway between the Tongan, or Friendly, Islands and the French Colony of New Caledonia. The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi, and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin in part to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands hot springs are met with, those best known being situated at Savusavu on the island of Vanualevu, on the Waidina River, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet) and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs between which and the shore there is provided a well-protected water-way.

HISTORICAL.

The islands of the Colony were discovered by the Dutch navigator, Abel Jansen Tasman, when exploring the South Seas, in 1643. He named the Group "Prins Wilhelm's Eylanden", which the inhabitants collectively termed "Viti." Neighbouring Tongans, as well as other nations, erroneously designated the islands as Fiji, and it is by this name that the Colony is now known to all except its native inhabitants. The islands were only nominally known until visited about a century afterwards by D'Urville and Wilks, Captain Cook, who merely sighted Vatoa or Turtle Island, Captain Bligh, who twice passed through the southern portion of the Group, and Captain Wilson, whose vessel, the "Duff," was nearly lost on the reef of Taveuni. These navigators added little, however, save secondhand information to the common stock of knowledge concerning the people. It is recounted that, after the mutiny of his sailors in the "Bounty," Captain Bligh, on passing through the Yasawa Group in a boat from his ship, was espied and pursued by natives of the island of Waya. He again passed through other parts of the Group when in command of H.M.S. "Province" in 1792.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and *bêche-de-mer* for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig "Eliza," with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the kingdom of Bau, where

he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel the "Hunter" of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory. Conner's fate was less tragic in character. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the good will of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began, the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette "Vandalia" arrived at Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him twelve months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the Islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the chiefs of Fiji "acknowledged, ratified, and

renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, as amended by Letters Patent of the 20th of July, 1916. The question of further amendment is under consideration.

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council, which at present consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General as ex-officio members, three other official members, and two nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council, as constituted by the Letters Patent, consists of the Governor, not more than twelve nominated members (of whom eleven must be persons holding public offices in the Colony), seven elected members, and two native members.

The Secretary of State has intimated his decision to advise His Majesty the King to amend the Letters Patent, to provide for the election of three representatives of the Indian community; for Fijian representation by nomination to be similarly increased

to three; for the number of the European elected members to be reduced from seven to six; and for the number of official members to be increased so as to preserve the official majority.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modifications by Colonial Ordinances.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences and rates. The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911 and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education and is authorised to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1923 provides for a Fire Brigade service for the town of Suva. A suitable station has been erected and up-to-date plant imported, including a latest pattern Dennis turbine motor engine.

The control of the Fire Brigade is vested in a board of Fire Commissioners.

I. General.

The Colony suffered a severe loss by the sudden death on the 17th of May of Mr. T. E. Fell, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, who had administered the Government prior to the arrival in Fiji in April, 1925, of the Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G.

While the year was noticeable for a decrease in the total trade of the Colony, the improvement in the Colony's financial position was more than maintained. The unusually long period of dry weather noticeable in 1925 was repeated in greater degree in 1926,

and for a time conditions almost amounting to a drought prevailed on the leeward side of Vitilevu. The increased percentage of sugar obtained from the cane failed to compensate for the retarded growth of the crop, and the consequent decrease in the amount of sugar extracted entirely accounts for the decrease in the total of exports. Imports, however, increased considerably.

Agriculture, referred to in greater detail in the report under its appropriate head, continues to be the economic backbone of the Colony. Sugar-cane is the most important crop, after which come coconuts, bananas, cotton, pine-apples, and rice. Dairying and cattle-breeding are also of some importance. Sugar, copra, and bananas have been produced for many years, whereas cotton, pine-apples, and dairying are recent innovations, dating approximately from 1918, when sugar production passed through a critical period and the Colony was faced with the possibility of having rapidly to diversify its agricultural products.

The campaign to control the coconut pest, the purple moth *Levuana iridescens*, continues to meet with success, and has restored confidence among planters, bankers, and business firms generally interested in the copra industry. Owing to the introduction of parasites, the moth outbreaks have disappeared almost entirely, and while no final statement can yet be made it is considered possible that sufficient parasites have now been colonised to bring about a permanent control of the pest. In view of the fact that, apart from cane areas, Vanualevu, Taveuni, and the Lau Group depend primarily upon copra, the results of this campaign are of outstanding importance to all the copra planters and to a large proportion of the native race. A completely successful issue to the campaign would also remove the threat of possible disaster to many islands in the Southern Pacific, the inhabitants of which depend to a large extent upon the coconut for an existence.

Another event of some importance is the decision to erect a central building for the Agricultural Department and for the bacteriological work of the Medical Department. This building will do much towards co-ordinating the agricultural work, of such vital importance in this Colony.

Fiji, during the year, was represented at the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition, held at Logan Park, Dunedin, at which the Colony was allotted some 3,000 feet of space.

The Court was erected of native Kauri felled in the mountains of Vitilevu. The timber was shipped to New Zealand in the rough, and there dressed and made into panelling.

The central feature of the Court was a native pavilion which was constructed entirely of materials sent from Fiji. It was erected by six natives of the province of Lau and two natives of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, who were sent to the Exhibition as Court attendants. It was built entirely without the

use of nails, the parts being fastened with ornamental lashings of different coloured "sinnet" (coconut fibre cord) worked into ancient conventional designs.

From time to time, in the evenings, the native attendants gave concerts in the pavilion, at which they sang folk-songs of the Pacific. These concerts were frequently broadcasted through New Zealand.

The main industries of the Colony were well represented. One of the principal exhibits was that of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, at which the process of the manufacture of sugar, from the cane to the various grades of manufactured sugar, was shown. Other exhibits included copra, rice, cotton, leaf tobacco, maize, areca nuts, ginger, groundnuts, cocoa, tea, coffee-beans, guava jelly, bêche-de-mer, coconut oil, arrowroot, trochas and pearl shell, showing the process of manufacture into buttons, tortoise shell and articles manufactured therefrom, candle nuts, including the extracted oil, and a variety of essential oils. A comparatively new industry in the Colony, that of biscuit making, was also represented. Regular shipments of such tropical fruits as bananas, pine-apples, limes, melons, etc., were sent to the Exhibition and were displayed and sold at the Fiji Court.

A large variety of articles of native manufacture were exhibited, such as mats, baskets, fans, coloured bark cloths, etc.

The Board of Awards awarded 8 gold medals, 1 silver medal, and 1 special diploma of merit for exhibits at the Fiji Court.

The Fiji Court at the Exhibition created considerable interest, and it is confidently hoped that closer communication, both in travel and in trade, between New Zealand and Fiji will be the result.

The Colony was represented at the Exhibition by the Honourable R. Boyd, Chairman, Native Lands Commission, as special Commissioner, and subsequently His Majesty was graciously pleased to confer on him, in recognition of his public services, the Order of an Officer of the British Empire (Civil Division).

The increase in the tourist traffic is of importance. The number of passengers arriving at all Fiji ports from overseas in 1925 was 2,437, and in 1926 this figure was increased to 3,722. Deducting twenty per cent. for Fiji residents returning from overseas, a total of approximately 3,000 appears as the number of visitors to the Colony during the year, an increase of 1,300 over the figure for 1925.

This steady growth in the tourist traffic is due to increased shipping facilities, the advertising which the Colony received at the Wembley and Dunedin Exhibitions, the opening of a bowling green, and other increased facilities for sport in Suva, and the issue of advertising matter by the shipping companies and the local tourist bureau.

After an interval of sixteen years, the Fiji Agricultural, Pastoral, Horticultural and Industrial Show had been revived in 1925. The Show held in 1926 created increased interest. The number of entries received from exhibitors in 1926 was 383 more than the total received in the previous year, and amounted to 1,364. Over 4,000 persons visited the Show, and all classes and races were represented among visitors and exhibitors. The holding of this Annual Show has proved of considerable benefit to the Colony. The exhibits of cattle were of particularly high quality and the importation of high-grade pedigree stock has admittedly been stimulated by the holding of this event.

The health of the Colony during 1926 was satisfactory. There was no serious outbreak of disease during the year except an epidemic of dropsy in November and December. This was confined to East Indians and was thought to be due to a toxic constituent of the mustard oil, which is regarded by the Indians settled in Fiji as an essential part of their diet.

Tuberculosis and typhoid fever were the most prevalent communicable diseases. Over seven thousand inoculations with typhoid vaccine were performed.

Students from the Gilbert Islands and from Samoa were admitted to the Native Medical School at Suva Hospital, and consideration was given to a scheme to enlarge the School so as to provide accommodation for twenty students from the Western Pacific groups.

A scheme is under consideration to establish at Suva a Central Medical School for the training of natives from all the Pacific Islands to be Native Medical Practitioners, and it is intended to employ these, when qualified, in the various groups to which they belong, to combat the various diseases which exist in the island groups and against which in the past it has been impossible to wage an efficient campaign on account of the shortage of skilled medical officers and the difficulties of communication. This scheme is being liberally supported by the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Forty-one patients from Samoa, the Cook Islands, and New Zealand were admitted to the Makogai Leper Asylum under the agreement existing with the Government of the Dominion. There were 301 patients in the asylum at the end of the year, of whom 70 were from the above-mentioned countries.

A Pacific Health Conference was held in Melbourne in December. It was resolved, *inter alia*, to take steps to assimilate the precautions to be taken by the Administrations of the Pacific groups of islands for the prevention of the admission of epidemic diseases into the Pacific islands and for the Government of each group in which any serious epidemic disease might arise to give immediate notification of the outbreak to the other Administrations.

The vital statistics remain satisfactory except in so far as the death-rate of the Fijian population is concerned. The deaths during the year and the percentages of the respective classes of population were as follows:—

Europeans 32, being .93 per cent. ; Fijians 2,965, being 2.3 per cent. ; Indians 563, being .82 per cent. ; others, excluding Rotumans, 81, being 1.14 per cent.

The births were as follows:—

Europeans 76, being 1.81 per cent. ; Fijians 3,035, being 3.39 per cent. ; Indians 2,244, being 3.26 per cent. ; others, excluding Rotumans, 178, being 2.51 per cent.

1,002 marriages were registered, being at the rate of .58 per cent. of the population.

Among public works completed, of more than local interest, an item of importance was the enlargement of the Government slip at Suva. During 1926 the cradle of the slip was extended 40 feet at a cost of £500, which work now enables vessels of the following maximum size to be slipped:—Length 200 feet, dead weight 900 tons, draft forward 4 feet, draft aft 12 feet.

II. Finance.

Totals of Revenue and Expenditure for five years, and excess of Liabilities over Assets at the end of each year, were as follows:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Assets</i>	<i>Liabilities</i>	<i>Excess of Liabilities over Assets</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
1922	450,155	530,361	465,695	709,177	243,482
1923	479,982	429,666	565,467	758,632	193,165
1924	488,907	451,257	641,067	796,582	155,515
1925	550,236	478,174	668,104	751,557	83,453
1926	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017

The extremely satisfactory recovery of the Colony from the post-war depression, as indicated in the trade statistics and also in the foregoing table, is due, firstly, to drastic retrenchment, secondly, to the revival of the sugar industry, and thirdly, to the stimulation and introduction of young or new industries.

While the incidence of taxation has been considerably varied, only a slight increase thereof having been introduced, yet not only have very considerable surpluses of revenue been obtained during the last four years but it has also been found possible largely to fortify and extend those Government services which most directly affect the future welfare and prosperity of the Colony.

The excess of Liabilities over Assets was reduced from £243,482 at the end of 1922 to £35,017 at the end of 1926—an improvement of £208,465 in four years. The small excess of Liabilities over Assets still remaining is far more than counterbalanced by permanent capital works carried out on Revenue Account. The cost of these may possibly be transferred to Loan Account, which, adjusting the position as between Loan Account and Revenue Account, would leave a material surplus of Assets over Liabilities.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes, and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

Liabilities :—	£
Notes in circulation	364,999

Assets :—

Gold Reserve (sovereigns)	73,096
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1926)	343,784
Depreciation Fund Investments	21,383
	<hr/>
	£438,263

Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1926 ..	£ 73,264
---	----------

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1926 produced a net surplus of £12,865, as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities		16,326
Expenses	341	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund	3,120	3,461
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus		£12,865

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony is as under :—

	£
(a) Public Works Loan	144,750
(b) Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Loan ..	8,800
(c) Advances by Imperial Treasury and Crown Agents :—	
(i) for Loan Works	395,263
(ii) for Current Purposes	95,483
	<hr/>
	£644,296

Debentures to the value of £6,500 were redeemed during the year, and the indebtedness to the Crown Agents was increased by £9,746.

BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £6,000,000, while that of the latter is £6,154,988. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,119,101, and by the Bank of New Zealand £279,921.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 4,004, to 5,197, while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £96,104 to £136,417. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £20,052 in excess of the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1925.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1926, was £136,840, as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1926)	137,398	
Cash awaiting investment	10,842	148,240
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus		£11,400

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1926 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment		5,484
Interest credited to Depositors	3,788	
Expenses	174	3,962
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus		£1,522

The rate of interest paid to depositors is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. up to £500, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

III. Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

TRADE.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to £3,221,372 in 1926, of which the value of imports was £1,480,945 and of exports £1,740,427. The value of imports exceeded that of 1925 by £209,810, but exports decreased by £415,830.

Although the balance of trade is not as high as in 1925, in which year the value of exports exceeded that of imports by £432,340, yet the trade for 1926 must be considered satisfactory with a balance of £259,482.

The figures for the years 1925 and 1926 are as follows :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1925 ..	1,271,135	2,156,257	3,427,392
1926 ..	1,480,945	1,740,427	3,221,372

The following return shows the value of imports from the principal countries during 1925 and 1926 :—

Country.	1925.	1926.
	£	£
Australia	576,260	607,171
United Kingdom	332,080	444,047
New Zealand	117,413	142,225
United States	143,089	123,574
Canada	42,128	59,633
India	25,423	48,161
Japan	13,314	30,067

It is to be noted that, while the import trade from the United Kingdom and British Possessions has shown a satisfactory increase in each case, the total of imports from foreign countries has slightly decreased. The proportion of the import trade with the United Kingdom was 29·99 per cent., with British Possessions 59·15 per cent. and with foreign countries 10·86 per cent., as against 26·15 per cent., 60·65 per cent., and 13·20 per cent. respectively in 1925.

The increase in the value of imports from the United Kingdom during late years is due to the effect of the direct steamship communication between the United Kingdom and Fiji and of the Preferential Tariff. The tariff provides for a 12½ per cent. higher rate of duty on foreign goods which are subject to *ad valorem* rates of duty than on British goods of like description, and a 100 per cent. higher duty on those subject to specific rates of duty. The term " British goods " includes goods produced or manufactured within the British Empire.

The following return shows the principal exports of the Colony for the years 1925 and 1926 :—

Article.	1925.	1926.
Sugar, tons	91,744	56,991
Copra, tons	24,133	27,868
Molasses, tons	8,283	7,374
Bananas, bunches	565,623	564,397
Rubber, lb.	145,213	233,990
Gum, cwt.	980	1,511
Shell, turtle, lb.	2,412	3,385
Trocas shell, cwt.	11,520	7,560
Bêche-de-mer, cwt.	671	885
Biscuits, lb.	482,146	453,397
Butter, cwt.	213	525
Cotton, lb.	7,612	190,243
Oil, coconut, tons	132	91
Fruit, fresh, other	£6,041	£6,579
Vegetables, fresh	£3,171	£4,958

As will be seen from the foregoing, the main industries of the Colony are the production and export of sugar, copra, and bananas. Of these articles there were exported in 1926 the following quantities :—sugar 56,991 tons, copra 27,868 tons, bananas 564,397 bunches, of a value of £808,195, £573,475, and £138,040 respectively. As compared with the figures for 1925, sugar shows a falling-off of 34,753 tons. This was due to unfavourable weather conditions during the middle of the year, retarding the growth of cane. On the other hand, copra shows an increase of 3,735 tons, which was due partly to a carry-over from 1925 and to the fact that a number of additional coconut areas came into bearing during the year. The banana export trade is limited to New Zealand markets, and until further markets can be found no increase may be expected.

Of the other articles appearing in the return, items of interest are rubber and cotton. The world's market price of rubber during the last few years has enabled rubber plantations to be once again worked at a profit. The majority of the rubber was exported to the United States of America. The increase shown in the quantity of cotton exported is accounted for largely by a heavy carry-over of the 1925 crop.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

The year 1926 was marked by a phenomenal drought that had the effect of increasing the percentage of sugar in sugar-cane and of decreasing to varying extents the yield of copra, rice, cotton, and pine-apples.

The year was also marked by dull markets for copra and cotton. Despite the difficulties, however, agriculture in the Colony has held its own, and in one or two directions conspicuous advances have been made.

The Levuana Campaign.

Once again interest has largely centred in this campaign. A Zygaenid moth named *Levuana iridescens* has been in the Colony for at least sixty years, and wherever it has occurred has prevented the commercial production of copra. Until about five years ago it had been confined to the main island of Vitilevu and to certain small islands close by. When, however, the insect suddenly spread to Ovalau and an associated group of islands, and by successive defoliations prevented the production of copra valued at approximately £10,000 per annum, alarm was felt that with the strategic port of Levuka affected the insect might spread further afield to Vanualevu, Taveuni, and the Lau Group, which together produce copra valued at approximately £500,000 annually. If the campaign proves to be completely successful, it will have the effect of restoring the copra production of Ovalau

and nearby islands, of safeguarding from what appeared to be impending disaster the copra industry of the Colony, and of opening up for copra production the island of Vitilevu, with a coast line of roughly four hundred miles.

During the year the campaign has been marked by the rapid multiplication and diffusion of a Tachinid or two-winged parasitic fly named *Ptychomyia remota* throughout the infested territory, this fly having been previously introduced with the greatest difficulty from the Federated Malay States. By the close of 1926 this fly has brought about so great a change as to permit the hope that it may lead to the complete control of *Levuana*. The introduction of further parasites that have been discovered in Java, by an entomologist attached to the campaign, has therefore been held in abeyance. Now that *Levuana* has become a rare insect *Ptychomyia* will have to depend for maintenance largely upon other hosts, and it remains to be seen whether these secondary hosts are sufficiently plentiful and widely distributed to keep it up to a numerical strength adequate to deal with new outbreaks of *Levuana*.

Measures to Combat Coconut Scale.

Advantage was taken of the extended visit to Java of an entomologist attached to the Levuana Campaign, to study and bring to Fiji some of the natural enemies of *Aspidiotus destructor* occurring in that country, and not already present in Fiji. The shipment arrived at the end of the year and no statement as to results can yet be made except that, as the vessel had to go into lengthy quarantine on account of smallpox, some of the parasite cargo was lost and that at least one Coccinellid beetle, not as yet identified, shows promise of being a valuable aid in the control of the scale.

Copra Exports.

The following table shows that the quantity of copra exported is increasing, this being due partly to new areas coming into bearing :—

						<i>Tons.</i>
1922	..	..	..	..	..	21,987
1923	..	..	..	..	..	24,161
1924	..	..	..	..	..	23,137
1925	..	..	..	..	..	24,133
1926	..	..	..	..	..	27,868

Bananas.

During the year the Australian embargo against Fiji bananas on account of what has been called "Sigatoka disease," has been removed as a result of the Government Mycologist proving that this disease is identical with the Leaf Spot disease of Queensland.

The tariff maintained by Australia against Fijian bananas will continue, however, to prevent any considerable export to that country. Banana exports are chiefly to New Zealand, and for the past five years have been :—

						<i>Bunches.</i>
1922	..	..	..	..	..	358,122
1923	..	..	..	..	..	406,607
1924	..	..	..	..	..	467,845
1925	..	..	..	..	..	565,623
1926	..	..	..	..	..	564,397

Cotton.

The revival of cotton-growing dates from 1923 and has been confined so far to the Sea Island variety. During the year a record crop has been produced which proved of great value to East Indians, particularly in the Sigatoka River district where other crops failed on account of the drought.

Machinery was imported for ginneries to be erected at Sigatoka and Ra, on Vitilevu, and at a site to be selected on Vanualevu, but on account of the dull market it was considered advisable to proceed only with the ginnery at the first-named place. This was completed at the end of the year, and is a three-gin plant powered by suction gas and has adequate storage facilities for all cotton likely to be produced during the next few years.

A vital need has been met in the establishment in the Sigatoka district of a cotton experimental station, with a competent specialist in charge. The work at this station will consist largely of improving the variety of Sea Island cotton grown and of testing other varieties that may have a wider market than the Sea Island variety and that may provide the opportunity for a greater expansion in cotton-growing than can be anticipated at present from Sea Island cotton alone. Meade, Pima, a kidney cotton from New Guinea, Peruvian, and some hybrids are at present under test, in addition to a number of pure line selections of Sea Island.

The Government pays an advance of 4d., 3d., 2d., or 1d. per lb. of seed cotton, according to grade, and has paid out approximately £16,000 on the crop, this representing an average payment of 2·98d. per lb.

Production since the revival of the industry has been :—

					<i>Bales of lint of approximately 350 lb.</i>
1923	..	..	..	..	101
1924	..	..	..	..	180
1925	..	..	..	..	136
1926	..	..	..	(Estimated at)	925

Pine-apples.

The experiment conducted jointly between the Government and Canadian Cannery, Limited, in growing and canning smooth Cayenne pine-apples has advanced considerably, although the drought was responsible for reducing the available quantity of fruit from the estimated 500 tons to 125 tons. The amount given was sufficient, however, for the essential purpose of testing the more important markets and of arriving at a reasonably close estimate of the f.o.b. cost of the canned product at Suva. The quality of the product has been pronounced excellent and at least fully equal to best Hawaiian, and the cost has been sufficiently low to induce the Canadian Company to extend the experiment for another year and to agree to planting up another 30 acres of pine-apples, which will not come into bearing until about November, 1928.

The experimental cannery was established in Suva, and managed by an expert sent by the Company from Canada. The output was 3,686 cases, each of two dozen tins, and has been disposed of in Canada, New Zealand, and locally.

Dairying.

The three butter factories have operated successfully during the year, and in each case there has been a slight increase in production. The local demand for butter has been satisfied, and 525 cwt. were exported as against 213 cwt. in the previous year, when butter was exported for the first time.

The industry is young in this Colony and has had to contend with many difficulties, such as those connected with the transport of cream and butter, and the provision of cold storage facilities both at the factories and in Suva and on the vessel plying between Suva and New Zealand.

The task of rapidly building up good dairy herds has not been an easy one. Many of these difficulties are in the process of being met, and the industry is becoming more stable. In spite of the difficulties much of the butter for export has been accepted as first-grade on arrival at its destination, and the butter on the local market is generally excellent.

Meat Cannery.

Through private enterprise a meat cannery has been nearly completed on the Tova estate. The building is a substantial one of reinforced concrete and steel and is equipped with a modern plant including tin-making apparatus. When this factory comes into operation it is likely to provide a much-needed outlet for the surplus cattle to be found in many parts of the Colony.

Rice.

For the rice year ending 30th June, 1926, 713 tons of paddy were purchased by the Government and milled or sold, the rice recovered amounting to 480 tons. In addition, 1,226 tons of rice

were imported. The total sales of rice by the Government rice mill amounted to 1,657 tons, valued at £34,387. The extraction of rice from paddy was 69·3 per cent., which is a record for the mill.

The net profit for the year was £2,550 2s., and the net profit since 1922, after paying interest, sinking fund, rent, etc., and a bonus to growers of over £1,000, is £2,517 18s. 2d.

Cane Sugar.

The drought had the effect of reducing the tonnage of sugar-cane hauled to the mills, but as it also caused an increase in the percentage of cane-sugar the quantity of sugar produced was up to average. Planting operations were affected adversely by the drought, and considerable replanting had to be done.

It is a matter for gratification that the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has expressed its continued faith in the Colony by purchasing the mill and properties of the Penang Sugar Company and two adjacent properties known as the Ellington and Yaqara estates.

Sugar exports for the last five years have been :—

					<i>Cwt.</i>
1922	..	..	..	..	1,434,620
1923	..	..	..	..	882,160
1924	..	..	..	..	889,440
1925	..	..	..	..	1,834,880
1926	..	..	..	..	1,139,820

LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912 Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure is leasehold up to 99 years, with re-assessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every thirty-third year in agricultural leases. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed an Ordinance which provided that on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause) the owner should pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor-in-Council could issue a lease renewal on reassessed rental.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted generally to public auction, usually of an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by East Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fee by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1926 :—

Nature of Title.	No. of Titles.	Area.	In process of alienation.		Total Area.
			No. of Lots and area estimated.		
			Acres.	No. Acres.		Acres.
Freehold	1,583	531,305	4	330	531,635
Leases of Crown Land	248	17,994	87	2,085	20,079
Leases of Native Land	6,259	353,980	1,047	25,603	379,583
					Acres 931,297

The approximate total area of the Colony is 4,523,620 acres.

Four hundred and seventy-four applications for leases of native lands aggregating 16,776 acres were received during the year. Of these, 257 applications, for 3,110 acres, were approved and 101 applications, for 10,883 acres, were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 82 per cent. of the total.

Fifty-six applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 13,864 acres. Of these, 28 applications, for 220 acres, were approved and 20, for 2,548 acres, were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn. The number of documents relating to leases of Crown and native lands, sent to the Registrar of Titles Office for registration, increased from 982 in 1925 to 1,643 in 1926.

SURVEY.

The working of the Survey Regulations instituted in 1924 has resulted in a further satisfactory reduction of outstanding surveys and expedition of new work. Seven hundred and forty-five plans were examined and passed, as compared with five hundred and eighty-one during the corresponding period of 1925.

MINING OPERATIONS.

Mining is still confined to prospecting operations only, as no mineral deposits have yet been discovered which have proved to be payable for working on a commercial basis. Only two prospecting licences, for an aggregate area of 900 acres, were issued during the year. Fifteen prospecting licences remained in force at the end of the year, and twenty new Miner's Rights and two renewals were issued during the twelve months. A few ounces of alluvial gold have been obtained by one prospecting party from certain small streams in the hills, but the existence of the ore body, constituting the source from which the gold was originally eroded, has not been proved.

TIMBER.

Increased activity has been evident in the timber industry. An additional concession in respect of an estimated area of 3,600 acres of native-owned forest was approved in March, bringing the total number of concessions which have hitherto received consideration and approval by the Governor in Council up to eight, covering an aggregate estimated area of about 413,800 acres. Only one of the concessions, that held by the Fiji Kauri Timber and Land Company over 15,700 acres at Nadarivatu, Vitilevu, is in respect of Crown forest. The output of sawn timber by this Company is still retarded owing to the difficulties of transport of the timber to the coast. The cost of a special tramway down the escarpment to the coast was found to be excessive, and effort is now concentrated on improvements to the existing roadway in order to enable transport of sawn timber to be effected by motor trucks.

The Pacific Timbers, Limited, a branch of the Brisbane Timbers Limited, of Queensland, was engaged during the latter part of the year in the establishment of a new sawmill on the Dreketi river, on the north coast of the island of Vanualevu. This Company holds, by transfer, two concessions aggregating an estimated area of 257,000 acres.

Messrs. J. T. Tuck and Sons of New Zealand have recently established a sawmill at Buca Bay, on the south-eastern coast of the island of Vanualevu, to work the firm's concession over an estimated area of 77,000 acres.

There are in all nine established sawmills in the Colony, mostly of small capacity and limiting operations to the supply of soft-wood lumber for the manufacture of packing cases for the export of fruit.

The total output of all mills for the year 1926, in accordance with figures supplied by the operators, was 4,353,844 superficial feet, almost the whole of which was absorbed by local requirements. The export of timber for the year was only 31,689 superficial feet, valued at £448; Canada taking 29,216 feet and Tonga 1,498 feet.

No surveys have as yet been made of the forest lands of the Colony, but a recent estimate prepared by the Conservator of Forests shows an area of 2,317,000 acres of rain forests and 49,000 acres of mangrove forest. A large proportion of the forest area may eventually prove to be unworkable for commercial purposes owing to the rugged nature of the country. Most of the forest lands are owned by the natives, and no reasonable estimate of the area owned by the Crown can be made until such time as the Native Lands Commission survey of tribal boundaries more nearly approaches its completion.

Arrangements were made during the year, by the courtesy of the Government of Sarawak, for the services of an expert Forestry Officer to be put at the disposal of the Government to investigate and report on the timber resources of the Colony. Mr. J. P. Mead, Conservator of Forests, Sarawak, arrived on the 30th December and is now engaged on his investigations.

IV. Legislation.

Twenty-six Ordinances were passed during the year 1926. These for the most part were small amending measures of purely domestic interest, but special mention should be made of the following :—

No. 1. The Sea Carriage of Goods Ordinance, which repeals the Sea Carriage of Goods Ordinance 1906 and brings the law in the Colony on this subject up to date.

No. 19. The Drugs and Poisons Ordinance, which is a consolidation of the laws of the Colony dealing with the sale of drugs and poisons, opium, and Indian hemp, and introduces new matter to give effect to the changes necessitated by the Colony's adherence to the Protocol and Final Act of the Second Opium Conference held at Geneva in 1924-1925.

No. 20. The Government Savings Bank Amendment Ordinance, by which the Bank is made self-supporting and its control transferred from the Treasury to the Postal Department, a step made advisable and possible by the gratifying expansion of the Bank.

No. 21. The Traffic Ordinance, which consolidates the law relating to vehicles and traffic generally, vests control of traffic in the Inspector-General of Constabulary solely instead of, as previously, partly in the Municipal Councils and partly in the Government. It will, with the regulations made thereunder, provide up-to-date methods of dealing with the large and rapidly increasing amount of motor traffic in the Colony.

V. Education.

The early history of education in Fiji is closely associated with the activities of both the Methodist and the Roman Catholic Missions, and at the present time the following bodies are all practically interested in education: Methodist Mission (1835), Roman Catholic Mission (1844), Church of England Mission (1870), Seventh Day Adventist Mission (1889), the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited (1880), and local Fijian and Indian School Committees.

Mission schools for Fijians exist in nearly every district, and Mission and private schools for Indians are being opened in districts where Indians reside.

Nearly fifty years ago the Government opened an industrial school at Yanawai for Fijians, and some years later (1890) the increase in the number of Europeans settled in the Colony necessitated the opening of public schools in Suva and Levuka for European pupils. About this time also, the Roman Catholic Mission founded schools in Suva for their European adherents.

In 1916 an official Education Department was created in order to systematise the activities of the various bodies engaged in educational work. The School Boards were replaced by the Board of Education with School Committees, and Ordinances were passed to allow grants-in-aid to be made to primary and vernacular schools attended by pupils of all races settled in the Colony. In addition, the registration of all schools and masters was made compulsory.

At the present time educational facilities are provided both in the towns and in the country districts for all European pupils. Government and Roman Catholic schools exist in Suva and Levuka, and these, together with the country schools at the four principal sugar centres, provide accommodation for the majority of the European children of school age in the Colony, while European children in isolated places may be enrolled in the Government scheme of correspondence classes. There are three Government schools for European pupils, and these schools are conducted under a scheme of co-operation with the Education Department of New Zealand so that the system of education adopted is practically the same as that in the Dominion. About one quarter of the total number of pupils on the roll at the grammar schools in Suva are boarders, the boarding fees in respect of each pupil ranging from £40-£50 per annum.

For the Fijian natives a complete system of education is gradually being developed. Nearly every village has a vernacular school managed by one or other of the Missions, and from a village school a pupil may become enrolled in one of the eight assisted primary schools or in one of the six Government provincial schools. From these latter schools the Fijian youth may proceed to the Queen Victoria School at Nasinu, or to one of the various Mission

training institutions at which a higher education is provided. For the selected few there are Government Scholarships enabling them to continue their studies abroad.

Fifty years ago, when the Government and the Missions were commencing to deal with problems of Fijian and European education, there were no East Indians in the Colony. Now there are approximately 67,000 Indians resident in Fiji. In 1926 there were one Government school, nineteen assisted primary, six assisted vernacular and about twenty private schools for Indians.

During 1926 an Education Commission was appointed and submitted its report. The chief recommendations made were (a) a reorganization of the Education Department, (b) a system of teacher training, (c) facilities for technical and vocational training, (d) creation of educational districts for Indian pupils, and (e) education facilities for native and Indian girls. The comprehensive report of this Education Commission has been published, and contains many interesting appendices.

There are now altogether 69 Government and assisted schools, 23 being for Indians, 36 for Fijians, 4 receiving both Indians and Fijians, and 6 for Europeans and pupils of mixed European descent. They are attended by 5,610 pupils, of whom 1,661 are Indians, 3,436 Fijians, and 523 Europeans and others. The staffs consist of 33 European, 73 Fijian, and 45 Indian teachers.

Under the Registration of Schools and Teachers' Ordinance of 1918 there were 636 schools and 1,304 teachers registered in the Colony up to 31st December, 1926. The majority of schools are village schools for Fijians supervised by native teachers who give instruction in the vernacular.

The annual expenditure on education which was about £3,000 per annum prior to 1915 amounted to £28,956 in 1922, £25,322 in 1923, £27,103 in 1924, £30,039 in 1925, and £31,584 in 1926.

The following is a list of the external examinations for which candidates may be entered: Cambridge Local Examinations (Preliminary, Junior and School Certificate): New Zealand Education Department Examinations—Standard VI Proficiency, and Public Service Entrance Examinations: New Zealand University Examinations, including Matriculation, Accountancy, Preliminary Examinations and Degree and Diploma Examinations; London University examinations, including Matriculation and various Degree examinations; Australian examinations, such as that for the Diploma of the Australian Trained Nurses Association, and the licence examination of the Federated Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.

VI. Native Affairs.

The Honourable I. McOwan, formerly His Britannic Majesty's Agent and Consul in Tonga, was appointed Secretary for Native Affairs on the 9th July, 1926. On the death of the Honourable

T. E. Fell, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, Mr. McOwan assumed charge of the Secretariat of the Colony, including that dealing with Native Affairs. This arrangement continued up to the end of the year.

No new Native Regulations or amendments of existing ones were made during 1926, and the system of native administration generally speaking remained unchanged.

The Great Council of Chiefs was convened on the 7th September and opened by the Governor in person. The usual ancient and picturesque native ceremonies were performed at the opening of the Council. The Council carried on its deliberations for ten days under the presidency of the Secretary for Native Affairs. Among other resolutions the following were passed and received the approval of the Governor: (a) that Ratu Joni Mataitini, Native Lands Commissioner, and Ratu Deve Toganivalu, Roko Tui Bua, be the native representatives in the Legislative Council during the next sessions; (b) that the amount of £750, as a contribution towards payment of the expenses of a Forestry Officer to be imported for the purpose of making a report on the timber resources of the Colony, be taken from the accrued revenues derived from lands found by the Native Lands Commission to have been vacant at Cession; and (c) that natives of all provinces be invited to join in a collection of a sum of money to be devoted to the benefit of native Fijian returned soldiers.

During the past year the Colony was not affected by any serious epidemic, and on the 31st December the vital statistics showed an increase of close on 1,000 in the Fijian population. It is a source of deep gratification to the Administration that the Fijian race has increased by 4,957 since the 1921 Census.

Natives retain a large share of self-government. Powers are conferred on their District and Provincial Councils, constituted under Native Regulation No. III of 1912, to make regulations, subject to the approval of the Governor, for the good government and welfare of their respective districts and provinces.

The Native Affairs Ordinance provides for a Native Regulation Board consisting of the Governor, two members of the Legislative Council, and such other persons, European and native, as the Governor may nominate. This Board has powers to make regulations dealing with the marriage and divorce of natives, succession to property, the jurisdiction and powers of native courts and native magistrates in matters of civil and criminal procedure, and also such other matters as affect the well-being and good government of the native Fijian population.

District Courts are held by Native Stipendiary Magistrates, whose jurisdiction is limited to adjudge minor infringements of the Native Regulations. Right of appeal lies to the Provincial Court of the province in which the offence was committed. All graver breaches of the Native Regulations are dealt with by the

Provincial Courts, at each of which a European District Commissioner and a Native Stipendiary Magistrate preside. Appeals from Provincial Courts in their primary jurisdiction are decided by the Supreme Court of the Colony.

During the year the Governor visited the provinces of Lomaiviti, Lautoka, Ba, Nadi, Macuata, and Cakaudrove. On all these occasions the native Fijians performed the customary ceremonies of respect and loyalty.

The great majority of the Fijian population is engaged in agriculture, cultivating their tribal lands on which they plant various food crops necessary for their maintenance. Their food mainly consists of yams, sweet potatoes, taro, tapioca, and similar root crops. In addition to this they have permanent groves of coconuts, breadfruit, plantains, Tahitian chestnuts, etc. They are the main cultivators of bananas for export, and much of the copra exported from the Colony is produced by Fijians.

Fijians receive their first steps in education at the village schools, which are under the management of the religious bodies operating in the Colony. The Government has established six provincial boarding schools, which are under the supervision of European headmasters assisted by a trained staff of native teachers. Fijians contribute an education rate towards the upkeep of these schools. In addition to the provincial schools there is the Queen Victoria High School, established in 1906. It supplies higher education for selected pupils and has produced excellent results. To provide for the extended training of Fijians, a scheme is now in force whereby scholarships are granted to enable promising young Fijians to be sent outside the Colony for special education. Attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva, there is a Medical School where native Fijian students are trained in the practice of medicine.

Supplementing the Government institutions the Missionary Bodies in the Colony have several excellent schools and training colleges whose curricula include branches of technical education. Grants-in-aid are made to these by the Government.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under Ordinance No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or sub-division of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman and four native chiefs of the highest rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with the same powers as those vested in District Commissioners, to summon and examine on oath any person whom they may think able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor-in-Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors specially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just. Natives have shown no disinclination to pay for the survey of their lands; and to the 31st December, 1926, close on £13,000 had been recovered and paid into the Treasury.

The Commission made good progress during 1926 and completed investigations in the provinces of Colo East, Colo North, and the Yasawa group of islands. Registration of all documents in respect of the province of Ra—one of the largest provinces in the Colony, covering more than a quarter of a million acres—was effected and copies of records in the Fijian language sent out for delivery to the native owners.

During the year the surveyors attached to the Commission operated in the provinces of Rewa, Naitasiri, and Macuata. The total area of land surveyed during the twelve months was 41,542 acres.

VII. Indian Affairs.

The Indians in Fiji form a healthy, prosperous, contented, and rapidly-increasing community. At the census of 1921 they numbered 60,634, as compared with a total Fijian population of 84,475. Since that date and up to the end of 1926 it is estimated that the Fijian population has increased by approximately 5,000, and the Indian population by 8,100. The two races are about equally prolific, the birth-rate for Indians in 1926 being at the rate of 3.26 per cent. as compared with the rate of 3.39 per cent. among Fijians. The death-rate in the year for the former race was .82 per cent., comparing with a rate of 2.3 per cent. for Fijians, and this sufficiently accounts for the more rapid increase of the Indian population.

The Fiji-born Indian possesses a superior physique to that of his immigrant parents. He exhibits a greater intelligence and demands a more advanced standard of living.

A lesser number of Indians are content to work as labourers under agreement on the plantations, and their places are being taken by Fijians in increasing numbers.

While the majority continue to adopt agriculture as a means of livelihood, cultivating, as independent smallholders, sugar-cane, rice, cotton, and maize, the increasing educational facilities provided for Indians are producing a class which seeks clerical employment, particularly in the Civil Service.

There is no bitter communal feeling between Mohammedan and Hindu ; caste distinctions are disregarded, and the problem of " untouchables " is unheard of.

A form of Hindustani, hardly recognised by the newcomer from India, is becoming the common language of Hindu and Tamil alike.

Fijian and Indian live side by side in perfect amity. They do not intermarry and have practically no social relations with one another, and disputes between members of the two races are rare. There is no real poverty or discontent among them. They live, each family on its own holding and not in established villages as in India, and, although as a consequence the " panchayat " system of settling their petty disputes is rarely resorted to, they find the District Commissioners always accessible to them, a patient hearing is always given to their complaints, and when they resort to litigation a rapid and just settlement is effected of the question involved.

The year has seen a considerable expansion in the educational and medical facilities provided for them. Increased political rights are to be granted to them.

Approval has been given to the appointment to the Government Service of an additional officer qualified to act as Adviser to the Governor in matters affecting Indians in the Colony. Mr. J. R. Pearson, C.I.E., a retired officer of the Indian Civil Service, has been selected for the appointment, which will carry the title of Secretary for Indian Affairs.

VIII. Climate.

Pressure.—The mean pressure for the year taken at 20·30 and 03·30 Greenwich Mean Time and reduced to 32° F. mean sea-level, was 29·939 ; the highest recorded being 30·212 on 21st August and the lowest 29·528 on 3rd March.

The following table gives the mean pressure for each month of the year, together with the highest and lowest reading and the dates of their occurrences :—

<i>Months.</i>	<i>Monthly means.</i>	<i>Highest recorded.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Lowest recorded.</i>	<i>Date.</i>
January..	29·822	29·988	6th	29·600	31st
February ..	29·827	30·013	6th	29·616	1st
March ..	29·872	30·042	10th	29·528	3rd
April ..	29·971	30·091	6th	29·827	28th
May ..	29·956	30·973	9th	29·817	6th
June ..	30·010	30·154	10th	29·777	4th
July ..	29·973	30·141	26th	29·716	10th
August ..	30·048	30·212	21st	29·895	8th
September ..	30·020	30·176	18th	29·769	25th
October ..	29·955	30·122	14th	29·808	24th
November ..	29·923	30·031	18th	29·815	22nd
December ..	29·897	30·018	23rd	29·764	3rd

Air Shade Temperature.—The mean temperature for the year was 76·6° F., the highest recorded being 91° F. on 26th and 28th December, and the lowest 62° F. on 27th June, 13th and 15th July and 13th August.

Humidity.—The mean percentage of relative humidity for the year was 78·3, the greatest amount, namely, 100 per cent., being recorded on the following dates : 8th May, 4th and 13th June, 20th July, 24th, 25th and 26th September, and the lowest recorded being 50 per cent. on 11th July and 16th October.

The following table gives the mean temperature and absolute highest and lowest temperatures and the dates of their registration, together with the mean percentages of relative humidity and the highest and lowest recorded, with the date of their occurrence during each month of the year :—

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Temperature in Shade.</i>					<i>Humidity 100-saturation.</i>				
	<i>Mean.</i>	<i>Highest.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Lowest.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Mean per cent.</i>	<i>Highest per cent.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Lowest per cent.</i>	<i>Date.</i>
January	80·3	89°	20th	69°	7th, 9th, 15th	71·6	91	17th	54	12th
February	76·9	85°	1st	70°	19th, 23rd	88·1	99	15th, 22nd	62	7th
March	78·6	90°	4th	68°	13th	83·2	96	19th	62	12th
April	76·6	85°	25th	68°	24th	79·8	96	24th	63	4th
May	76·2	87°	30th	66°	1st	78·9	100	8th	62	27th
June	74·4	86°	4th	62°	27th	81·8	100	5th, 13th	54	25th
July	72·7	83°	4th, 20th, 31st	62°	13th, 15th	78·0	100	20th	50	11th
August	73·8	84°	9th, 24th	62°	13th	72·7	94	11th	51	22nd
September	74·6	86°	16th	63°	11th	81·7	100	24th, 25th, 26th	52	10th
October	77·1	90°	18th	67°	9th, 22nd	74·0	96	19th	50	16th
November	78·3	87°	7th, 22nd	69°	17th	77·3	99	12th	55	16th
December	79·7	91°	26th, 28th	68°	7th	72·3	99	28th	53	7th

Rainfalls.—Rain fell on 219 days of the year, with a total fall of 103·39 inches ; the greatest amount recorded for any one day being 5·17 inches, which occurred on the 23rd April and on the 24th September.

The following table gives the total rainfall, the number of days on which rain fell, and the greatest amount registered in 24 hours, together with the dates of occurrence for each month of the year :—

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Total fall inches.</i>	<i>Number of days rain.</i>	<i>Greatest fall per 24 hours.</i>	<i>Date.</i>
January ..	5·07	15	1·31	21st
February ..	16·89	26	2·27	11th
March ..	9·26	20	2·02	18th
April ..	10·12	21	5·17	23rd
May ..	8·33	14	3·79	7th
June ..	16·70	23	5·02	4th
July ..	8·19	17	3·98	20th
August ..	0·88	11	0·35	15th
September ..	13·57	21	5·17	24th
October ..	3·22	15	1·73	23rd
November ..	6·46	19	2·18	12th
December ..	4·70	17	0·90	20th

The total amount for August, viz. : 0·88 inches, is the lowest on record for this month during the last 42 years.

Winds.—The following table gives the direction of the wind at observation times, viz. : 20·30 and 03·30 Greenwich Mean Time, for each month of the year :—

<i>Month.</i>	<i>North.</i>		<i>North-East.</i>		<i>East.</i>		<i>South-East.</i>		<i>South.</i>		<i>South-West.</i>		<i>West.</i>		<i>North-West.</i>		<i>Calm.</i>	
	20-30	03-30	20-30	03-30	20-30	03-30	20-30	03-30	20-30	03-30	20-30	03-30	20-30	03-30	20-30	03-30	20-30	03-30
January	3	0	4	2	8	5	8	16	2	6	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	0
February	2	2	11	5	8	10	1	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
March	1	3	10	6	9	13	3	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
April	3	0	8	7	12	12	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
May	7	2	9	11	4	7	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2
June	4	2	5	4	8	13	6	8	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	1
July	6	4	6	7	2	3	3	9	1	2	0	5	2	1	1	0	10	0
August	2	0	7	6	9	8	4	11	2	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	0
September	1	0	6	4	7	13	9	11	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
October	2	1	7	4	9	9	5	10	2	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	1
November	1	0	1	2	14	12	8	12	1	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	1
December	2	1	6	3	9	14	10	9	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Year	34	15	80	61	99	119	67	123	14	23	10	10	6	4	2	0	53	7

N.B.—On three occasions no observations were taken.

During the season the south-easterly trade winds were remarkably light for most of the time.

Thunder-storms.—Twenty thunder-storms occurred during the year, in the following order: January eight, June one, July two, September one, October one, November four, and December three.

No cyclonic disturbances of importance occurred within the Group during the hurricane season, viz., 12th November to 30th April, but two small disturbances occurred outside the Group at other seasons, of which the following are descriptions:—

- (1) A cyclonic disturbance was reported, by the French War Sloop "Cassiopée," 140 miles N.W. of Suva, moving in a south-westerly direction, on 6th May. The vessel experienced wind from 56E. through N. to N. N.W. Force 7 to 8 (Beauford's Scale), the lowest barometer reading being 29·49.
- (2) A cyclonic disturbance existed between Fiji and the Tongan Islands on the 10th and 11th July, moving approximately S.E. Suva experienced N.N.E. through North to S.W. winds of force, the lowest barometer reading being 29·69, while Nukualofa (Tonga) experienced N.E. (through N. and N.W.) to S.W. winds reaching force 10/11 for short duration only, the lowest barometer reading recorded from here being 29·35.

IX. Communications.

Steamers of the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and the Oceanic Steamship Company convey mails regularly between Fiji, Canada, Honolulu, San Francisco, Australia, New Zealand and England. Inter-island communication is carried on by the Government steamer, "Pioneer," several other small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, and a considerable number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy, at the rate of £5,000 per annum, is paid to the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port for six hours' daylight after arrival at Suva. A subsidy, at the rate of £1,800 per annum, was paid during 1926 to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, in respect of a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports.

In addition, with the approval of Legislative Council, tenders were called in July for the maintenance of a further inter-insular steamship service, tenderers being required in consideration of the grant of a subsidy of £7,500 per annum to provide a vessel with

ample cargo and passenger accommodation for a four-weekly call at a number of ports and copra-producing centres, with which no regular communication at all by steam vessels has for many years existed. A tender from Messrs. Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, was accepted, and it was arranged that the new service should commence early in 1927. The advent of this vessel will not only add considerably to the amenities of life of European settlers on the various islands of the Group to be served by the contract vessel, but will increase considerably the facilities that already exist for the convenient marketing of island produce from certain scattered islands and from the Dependency of Rotuma, which is included in the itinerary of the contract vessel.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart and on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles is by submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu and Ba, and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. The total distance covered by this line amounts to 125 miles. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement, hours have been allotted to the public for the use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taveuni. In addition, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line in Suva, and at Labasa, in Vanualevu, which connects with the wireless station.

A telephone line from Bureta to Levuka was constructed during the year. The district of Naililili was also connected with Nausori by telephone. The preliminary work of constructing a telephone line some 60 miles in length, to connect the planters on the south coast of Vanualevu with the Savusavu wireless station, was undertaken. Forty-three new subscribers were connected to the Suva telephone exchange.

At the principal settlements in the islands outside Vitilevu, viz., Labasa, Taveuni, and Savusavu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established by Government.

Negotiations are at present in progress for the transfer of the wireless telegraph service to the Amalgamated Wireless Telegraph Company (Australasia) Limited, which Company proposes to improve the services and give extended facilities at lower rates.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

The road system of the Colony consists of some 1,180 miles of road, of which 217 miles are motor roads and a further 58 miles are safe for motor traffic in dry weather only. The balance of the roads consists of 51 miles of cart roads and 854 miles of bridle-tracks.

With the advent of increased numbers of motor vehicles, progress has been along the lines of improved road surfaces to meet this steady increase in traffic. At the end of 1925 there were 634 motor vehicles in the Colony, an increase of over 100 per cent. on the 1922 figures. At the end of 1926 this figure had increased to 823, made up as follows : 297 private motor-cars, 311 taxi-cars, 117 motor-lorries, and 98 motor-cycles.

A. W. SEYMOUR,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Suva, Fiji.

1st May, 1927.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1925-26, No. 1339 1s. 6d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327 1s.
BAHAMAS, 1926, No. 1330 9d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301 9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323 1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1926, No. 1336 9d.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332 9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317 1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1299 1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309 9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1925, No. 1334 6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 1s.	NIGERIA, 1926, No. 1335 1s. 3d.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1331 6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297 6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1926, No. 1341 .. 1s. 6d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326 6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1926, No. 1337 3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303 6d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1325 1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313 1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322 6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305 2s.	SWAZILAND, 1926, No. 1340 6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237 3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 6d.
GOLD COAST, 1925-26, No. 1333 2s. 6d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1925-26, No. 1328 1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1926, No. 1338 9d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 6d.
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial No. 22) 4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial No. 21) 6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN, 1926 (Colonial No. 26) .. 3s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1926 (Colonial No. 25) 3s. 6d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) 4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial No. 23) 4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial No. 16) .. 8s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-25 (Colonial No. 24) 9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

For further particulars apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1343.

ST. HELENA.



REPORT FOR 1926.

*(For Report for 1924 see No. 1251, and for Report for 1925
see No. 1297 (Price 6d. each.))*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 9d. Net.

58-33-0-26.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Historical	3
Description	4
Communications	5
Industries, Trade, etc.	5
Climate	6
Health	6
St. Helena as a place of residence	7
Accommodation	8
Cost of Living	8
Education	8
Outfit	8
General	8
Ascension Island	9
I. Financial :—	
Revenue	9
Expenditure	9
Assets and Liabilities	10
Currency	10
Remittances	10
Crown Agents for the Colonies	10
II. Trade, Agriculture and Industries :—	
Trade :	
Expenditure	11
Imports	11
Exports	12
Agriculture and Gardens	12
Industries	13
Shipping	13
III. Education	13
IV. Government Institutions	14
V. Judicial Statistics	14
VI. Legislation	15
VII. Vital Statistics	16
VIII. Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Services :—	
(a) Post Office	18
(b) Telegraphs	19
(c) Telephones	19
IX. General Observations :—	
St. Helena	19
Ascension Island	21

No. 1343.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

HISTORICAL.

St. Helena was discovered by the Portuguese Commander Juan de Nova Castella on St. Helena's day, 21st May, 1502, during his return from India with a squadron of three Portuguese vessels.

The Portuguese did not colonise the Island but were satisfied in keeping secret its situation until 1588, when it was visited by Captain Cavendish on his return from a voyage round the world.

The Dutch entered into possession of the Island and held it from 1645 to 1690, when they preferred to establish themselves at the Cape of Good Hope. St. Helena was then occupied by the East India Company and a Charter for its administration was granted in 1661.

In 1665, according to some accounts, the Island was captured by the Dutch, who were expelled the same year. Again they seized it in January, 1673, but only held it until May of that year when they were finally driven out by Captain Sir Richard Munden of the King's Navy.

In December, 1673, a new Charter was issued to the East India Company and, with the exception of the term of Napoleon's exile, the Island remained under the Company until the 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct administration of the Crown.

An instrument entitled "The Laws and Constitution of the Island of St. Helena" was issued by Charles II in 1681. This document, bearing the seal of the East India Company, is still in the possession of the Governor of St. Helena, as are also the records of the Colony from 1678 to the present day.

The outstanding feature in the history of St. Helena is its connection with the exile of the Emperor Napoleon. The house occupied by him at Longwood, and the tomb in which his remains lay for 20 years till their removal in 1840, are maintained by the French Government, who were granted the freehold in 1858.

Apart from its Napoleonic associations St. Helena has an interesting history and the Island has fluctuated between extreme poverty and comparative prosperity almost since its occupation.

It was chiefly celebrated in the East India Company's days as a port of call and half-way house between India and England. Large quantities of fruit and vegetables were grown for the provisioning of ships calling. Records show that upwards of 900 ships were entered at the port annually. The opening of the Suez

Canal sounded the death-knell of St. Helena as a shipping port and from that time shipping has gradually declined. The average number of ships now calling is about 40 per annum.

St. Helena has intimate associations with the suppression of the slave trade between West Africa and the Americas.

Slave ships captured by British warships were brought into St. Helena for condemnation, and a settlement for freed slaves was founded at Rupert's Bay. A few took service in the Island but about 10,000 were conveyed to the West Indies and British Guiana.

During the Boer war of 1899-1901 St. Helena was used as a place of incarceration for prisoners of war, and upwards of 4,000 were detained in the Island. This necessitated a garrison of about 3,000 troops.

For a few years after the repatriation of the Boer prisoners a garrison was maintained at St. Helena. Its withdrawal in 1906-7 caused considerable hardship among the population, who had learnt to depend on the garrison for their livelihood. The departure of the troops was not, however, an unmixed evil for it threw the Island on its own resources and led to the creation of the flax industry on which the prosperity of the inhabitants now so greatly depends.

A lace industry has been established since 1907, and gives employment to a number of women and children.

St. Helena was visited in 1910 by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on his way to open the first Parliament of the Union of South Africa, and in 1925 it had the honour of a visit from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who remained for two days on his way from South Africa to South America.

DESCRIPTION.

St. Helena lies in latitude 15.55 South and longitude 5.42 West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town. The voyage from England occupies 17 days, and from Cape Town 6 days.

The area of the Island is 47 square miles; there are about 60 miles of roads.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is forbidding. It rises abruptly in bare cliffs, which vary in height from 450 to 2,400 feet. The face of this wall of rock is cut by deep narrow gorges.

Above the cliffs the ground rises in a fairly regular slope, but with numerous valleys, to a ridge lying across the middle of the Island. This ridge is serrated in form; its general altitude is about 2,000 feet, but two of its peaks, easily accessible and affording magnificent views, rise to 2,700 feet.

The Island has been divided into three zones, "Coast," "Middle," and "Central."

The "Coast" zone extends from about a mile to a mile and a-half round the Island. Except in some of the valleys, where fruit and vegetables may be grown, the only vegetation is prickly pear.

The "Middle" zone, at an altitude of 400 to 1,800 feet, succeeds the "Coast" zone. The hills and valleys and pleasing scenery in the higher levels of this area are suggestive of parts of Wales and Devon. Oaks, Scotch pines, gorse and blackberries flourish there, and in 1926 at Plantation during a prolonged winter some primroses made their appearance. It is the pleasantest part of the Island in which to live and it contains Plantation (Government House), Bishopsholme, Rosemary Hall, Princes Lodge, Longwood, and other residences.

The "Central" zone, about three miles long by two miles wide, is ground each side of the central ridge, the highest ground in the Island. In some parts the ground is precipitous, in others undulating with grassy slopes.

The population of the Island is about 3,700, of whom about 1,500 live in Jamestown, the capital, situated in the "Coast" zone, while the rest dwell in the "country" as the other two zones are locally designated.

Transport is by horse, either driven or ridden. Owing to the hilly nature of the country the rate of progress is slow, but time is rarely of the essence of any undertaking in St. Helena. The drive, for instance, from the town to Plantation or to Longwood, where the golf links are, or from Plantation to Longwood, in each case a distance of five miles, occupies an hour and a-quarter. The introduction of motor transport is under consideration.

COMMUNICATIONS.

There are regular mails outward and homeward by Union-Castle Liners once a month, and occasional ships also bring or take mails.

Cable connection exists with all parts of the world. The charges are, for ordinary telegrams 2s. a word, for deferred telegrams 1s. a word, and for deferred letter telegrams 10s. for twenty words and 6d. for each word in excess.

There is no internal post but there is a fairly efficient telephone service.

INDUSTRIES, TRADE, ETC.

The cultivation of New Zealand flax is the staple industry of the Island. The flax is grown by large landowners and small-holders, while the milling of the flax is in the hands of four firms.

There is a certain amount of general farming, but owing to the development of the flax industry in recent years it has tended to decrease.

The Colony depends on the Imperial Treasury for an annual grant-in-aid of about £2,500 to balance its budget.

CLIMATE.

Situated far from any land-mass, in the heart of the South-East Trades, and surrounded by the cool waters of the South Atlantic current, St. Helena possesses a mild and equable climate.

There are four seasons in the year, which, however, are not so sharply differentiated as they are in England. Spring is from October to December, summer from January to March, autumn from April to June, winter from July to September.

The length of day varies from 13 hours on 21st December, to 11 hours on 21st June.

The sun is vertical on 5th February and on 6th November.

The temperature in the "Coast" zone ranges in summer between 68 degrees and 84 degrees and in winter between 57 degrees and 70 degrees. In the country at about 2,000 feet it is 10 degrees cooler.

In Jamestown, during summer, the heat is sometimes apt to be oppressive. In the country, during winter, fires are often necessary.

The atmosphere is humid; the monthly mean at 9 a.m. in the country varies from 89 degrees in January to 92 degrees in September.

The average annual rainfall in Jamestown is about 9 inches and the average number of raindays in the year is about 90. In the country at Plantation, 1,650 feet, the annual average of rainfall over 15 years is $38\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the average number of raindays 211. On two occasions during the 15 years the greatest fall in 24 hours amounted to 2 inches; apart from those two occasions the greatest fall did not exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

At Plantation the driest months are September to January inclusive, when the average rainfall does not exceed 3 inches each month; the lowest record being .15 and the highest 4.66, both in September. The wettest months are March, May, June, and July when the average is between 4 and 5 inches; the lowest record being 1.26 in March and the highest being 8.92 in July.

The average force of the wind, which blows almost every day in the year, is 14 miles per hour. On only one occasion in the last 30 years has the wind attained the velocity of 50 miles per hour.

Thunderstorms are of very rare occurrence, the last two recorded being in 1874 and 1888.

Earthquakes in the formidable sense are unknown. Only four "tremors" have been put on record in 400 years.

HEALTH.

"St. Helena," in the words of Sir Daniel Morris, Adviser in Tropical Agriculture to the Secretary of State for the Colonies,

"stands pre-eminent in possessing a remarkably fine and healthy climate. . . . In respect to its climate I regard St. Helena as a most valuable station for recruiting health."

The Island is completely free from any of the ills associated with tropical or sub-tropical countries. In particular the climate seems an excellent one for young children or elderly persons. It is also considered beneficial for tubercular or lung trouble.

It is generally held that after three or four years a change of environment is desirable.

No particular precautions are needed. The sun very rarely causes any inconvenience, though on occasions during the summer in exceptional seasons of prolonged drought the direct solar heat may be intense. In the last 25 years there has been only one case of fatal result from the effect of sun.

About February or March an epidemic of influenza often visits the Island; it attacks chiefly the indigenous population and its consequences are rarely of serious proportion.

The death-rate for the 10 years ending 1926 was 10.47 per 1,000.

ST. HELENA AS A PLACE OF RESIDENCE.

There is little opening for labour or capital, and no one should come to St. Helena for employment except under agreement.

For persons possessed of moderate private means the Island has possible attractions as a place of residence. Retired officials and generally persons with professional or technical qualifications might find occasional work to occupy some of their time. Anyone with a taste for botany, geology, forestry, gardening or fruit-growing on a small scale, would find much to interest him on the Island.

About 50 families, official, clergy, business, Eastern Telegraph Company, and private residents, go to make up local society. The social life is, therefore, that of a small community and is unpretentious.

The standard of recreation is of the kind to appeal to the average person. There is golf, tennis, cricket, in the winter months occasional pheasant and partridge shooting, and some sea-fishing.

The St. Helenians are an attractive people. They are of pleasant appearance, of good manners, soft-spoken, and peaceful. Visitors are greatly impressed with their civility and the general courtesy shown by young and old.

The women are good at lace and needlework. They can be trained into good servants and some find employment in South Africa and occasionally in England.

With its English speech, its English scenery, its English ways, St. Helena might well seem a part of England. Life passes amid picturesque surroundings in quiet and uneventful fashion, similar, one imagines, to life in a retired country district in England before the advent of railways. Residents in St. Helena, as in most small

communities, are to some extent dependent on their own resources for their diversions and for filling their time.

ACCOMMODATION.

There is no hotel on the Island but there is a boarding-house in Jamestown where visitors frequently stay for brief periods.

There are houses in the country, available from time to time for renting. It is advisable that persons intending to reside in St. Helena should make inquiries beforehand as to vacant houses and bungalows.

The rent of a house with garden is about £3 to £4 a month, unfurnished, and from £5 to £6 a month partially furnished.

COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living is cheaper than in England. Customs duties are light and rating also is low, at present 5*d.* in the pound.

Wages for indoor servants are from 15*s.* to 30*s.* a month and board. Men working in the garden or stables earn about 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.

A horse and carriage is in most cases a necessity and can be hired by the year. Including wages and cost of hire, a horse and carriage can be maintained for about £90 a year.

The charges for occasional hiring are 15*s.* for a whole day, 10*s.* for half a day, and £1 1*s.* for the evening.

Two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £35 to £40 a month. This estimate covers hire and maintenance of horse and carriage, wages of groom-gardener, and of two indoor servants, house rent, and generally all local expenses.

With a more limited range of social activity and with stricter housekeeping two people could live within £250 to £300 a year for local expenses. This sum does not include the upkeep or occasional hire of a horse and carriage.

(See also page 16.)

EDUCATION.

There are no facilities locally for the education of English children, who have to be sent either to South Africa or to England for their schooling.

OUTFIT.

Clothes worn in England during spring and a warm summer will be found suitable. Woollen sweaters and jumpers are necessary, and so also is stout footwear.

GENERAL.

Apart from the Government Savings Bank there are no banking facilities. Government, however, issues Bills of Exchange on the Crown Agents for the Colonies at low rates.

Interesting books on the Island are : Brooke's " History ", published in 1808 ; Melliss' " St. Helena ", published in 1875, giving an historical and scientific account of the Island ; Jackson's " St. Helena ", published in 1903 ; Norwood Young's " Napoleon in Exile in St. Helena ", two volumes, published in 1915.

ASCENSION ISLAND.

Ascension Island, lying in latitude 7.53 South and longitude 14.18 West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena, was discovered by the Portuguese on 20th May, 1501. It became noted for its abundance of sea fowl and excellent turtle, the latter " freeing sailors entirely from the scurvy and other diseases of the blood."

The Island was occupied by the British in 1815 at the time Napoleon was a prisoner in St. Helena. In 1821 the garrison was formed of marines, and the Admiralty continued control over the Island until 12th September, 1922, when Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena.

At the present time the Eastern Telegraph Company have a station there, and officers of the Company are invested with administrative powers.

A company has been formed to exploit the guano and phosphate deposits on the Island, but the export has not yet assumed large proportions.

Ascension has an area of 34 square miles ; it is of volcanic origin, and its appearance from the sea is rugged and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing aspect of the larger part of the Island, and affords pasture for a certain number of sheep and cattle.

The pure and dry air of Ascension has given its climate a reputation for being singularly healthy.

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

Revenue for the year amounted to £21,444 exclusive of any grant-in-aid ; this is an increase of £6,713 over 1925.

This increase was mainly due to the absorption by the Colonial Government of the outstanding assets of the Government Flax Mill, and bringing back into revenue the Cypress timber purchased in 1925.

There was a grant-in-aid of £2,500 to general revenue.

EXPENDITURE.

Expenditure amounted to £23,154, but of this sum £7,727 was expenditure of an extraordinary nature and represents the writing off of doubtful assets. In these circumstances only £15,427 can be regarded as normal expenditure. The revenue, exclusive of the

extraordinary revenue mentioned above, but including grant-in-aid, can be read as :—

	£
Total Revenue	23,944
Less extraordinary revenue. Flax Mill assets, etc.	8,323
Revenue including grant-in-aid	15,621
Normal expenditure	15,427
Surplus	£194

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities after writing off doubtful assets to the amount of over £7,000 shows an excess of Assets over Liabilities amounting to £4,955 11s. 8d.

CURRENCY.

Bills of Exchange on the Crown Agents for the Colonies, issued during the year, amounted to £15,794, as compared with £15,889 in the previous year.

£1,000 in specie was exported during the year.

By an Order in Council dated 12th October, 1925, brought into force in St. Helena on 1st January, 1926, South African currency was made legal tender in St. Helena and such currency is now acceptable on the same conditions as sterling currency.

REMITTANCES.

£3,588 was remitted to the Crown Agents during the year chiefly in the form of Bills on His Majesty's Paymaster-General.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

The Colony had an overdraft at the Crown Agents at the end of the year amounting to £500, but the Crown Agents held cash to the credit of the Colony on Current Account to the amount of £530, so that actually the Colony had a credit balance on 31st December, 1926, of £30.

The following figures show the state of the Colony's overdraft and cash balance at Crown Agents for the past six years :—

	Overdraft.	Cash balance on
	£	current account.
31st December, 1922	8,100	Cr. £165
31st December, 1923	7,500	Dr. £501
31st December, 1924	1,500	Dr. £478
31st December, 1925	1,500	Cr. £607
31st December, 1926	500	Cr. £530

II.—Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

(a) TRADE.

The Customs revenue collected during 1926 amounted to £4,999 18s. 9d. as against £4,294 1s. in 1925, showing a substantial increase of £705 17s. 9d. An increase of revenue, estimated at £400, was anticipated on the enactment of the Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance No. 1 of 1926. This Ordinance came into operation on the 22nd of March. It embodied the war taxation dues on spirits, wines, and tobacco, and also imposed a further increase of duty.

Increases of revenue appear under :—

Wharfage on Imports £154 19s. 8d., mainly due to a two years' supply of paraffin oil being imported direct from the United States of America.

Duty on Imports £820 10s. 3d. The increased duty mentioned above partly accounts for this increase, while 322 gallons of spirits were cleared from bond in excess of 1925 consumption. It is peculiar to note that the consumption of cigarettes fell off by 551 lb. in 1926, whilst tobacco increased by 515 lb.

Tonnage dues £65 3s. 6d., due to Admiralty coal arriving on which 1s. per ton was paid. No Admiralty coal was imported in 1925.

Ad valorem duty £39 11s. There being a regular demand for labour, better conditions prevailed and more luxuries were indulged in.

Decrease of revenue is found under "*Permits*" £4 4s., "*Special War Dues*" £281 13s. 8d., and "*Export Wharfage*" £87 16s. 8d. The Special War Dues Ordinance being repealed by Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance No. 1 of 1926 resulted in the dues being absorbed in duty on imports; and one flax mill suspending operations during the year lessened the export wharfage.

Expenditure.

Customs expenditure amounted to £521 2s. 3d., as compared with £500 3s. 2d. in 1925. The increase is due to transfer of personal bonus from "*Miscellaneous*" to "*Personal Emoluments*."

Imports.

The value of imports during 1926 amounted to £56,040 as against £57,805 in 1925, showing a decrease of £1,765.

This total includes Government imports exclusive of munitions of war, to the amount of £598.

The principal increases in value over 1925 are in :—

	£
Beef and Pork (salt)	326
Boats	800
Butter and Margarine	158
Hardware, metals, &c.	898
Oil, paraffin	1,603
Tea	240

The principal decreases are :—

	£
Live animals	126
Drapery and dry goods	565
Flour	1,268
Machinery	218
Rice	403
Timber	2,775
Stationery	322
Sugar	1,405

Exports.

The value of exports during 1926 amounted to £39,977 as against £47,476 in 1925, showing a decrease of £7,499.

The principal increases were :—

	£
Rope, cord, and twine	605
Specie	500

and decrease :—

	£
Fibre and tow	7,593

The weight of fibre and tow exported during the year was 751 tons and 417 tons respectively, as compared with 923 tons and 420 tons respectively, in 1925. This is due to one mill suspending operations during 1926.

It has been customary in the past to count live stock for Ascension Island as an export. This has been deleted in the current report.

(b) AGRICULTURE AND GARDENS.

Botley's Lay.—The revenue derived from the Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay or Common amounted to £98 1s. 8d., the expenditure being £93 11s. 2d. The balance standing to the credit of this fund at 31st December was £56 16s. 6d.

Maldivia Garden.—The amount derived from the sale of fruit and vegetables from Maldivia Garden, situated at Jamestown, amounted to £110 8s. 2d., against an expenditure of £108 8s. 9d. The balance standing to the credit of this fund at 31st December was £62 10s. 7d.

Flax.—A small crop only of Government flax was harvested in 1926 as the bulk of Government-owned flax was reaped in 1925. Flax seed to the value of £243 and flax suckers to the value of £20 was exported during the year.

General.—The yield of forage, etc., from Government lands was very satisfactory.

The lawns, fencing and grounds of Government House were maintained in excellent order and the flower-beds kept up to the very high standard set in 1925 when they received special attention.

Destruction of White Ants.—During the year experiments were undertaken with a view to checking the serious depredations of white ants. Some useful information is being collected on the habits of these ants and a certain amount of success has attended the use of various preparations for their destruction.

(c) INDUSTRIES.

There are six flax mills operating for the extraction of fibre and tow from the leaves of *Phormium Tenax* (New Zealand flax). There is also a factory for the manufacture of binder twine and rope. These industries give employment to about 500 men and women.

The area under flax cultivation amounts to approximately 1,800 acres.

2. Experiments are being made in connection with the breeding and rearing of valuable fur-bearing rabbits and 26 stock rabbits were imported in the latter part of the year. This experiment is not sufficiently far advanced to make any report upon at the moment, but the stock had increased to about 60 animals at the end of the year.

3. The demand for lace has been maintained and the quality of the work has been kept at its usual high standard.

(d) SHIPPING.

The number of vessels calling at the Port during the year was 40, being the same number as in 1925. The total tonnage entering and clearing the Port was 164,327 as compared with 173,450 in 1925.

The vessels calling were made up as follows :—

British war ships	...	...	...	4
British merchant ships	...	...	...	34
German surveying vessel	...	...	...	1
American yacht	...	...	...	1

Normal mail service was maintained throughout the year.

III.—Education.

The total number of children under instruction is 674. This is an increase of 54 as compared with 1925.

It was not possible during the year to commence the technical instruction mentioned in the 1925 Report, owing partly to the difficulty of finding accommodation for the classes. This difficulty has been overcome and the scheme will now go forward.

The Superintendent of Education reports that the quarterly and annual examinations showed a satisfactory state of affairs; his report on the pupil teachers is equally satisfactory.

For the first time in its history a lady member was appointed to the Board of Education. This lady, at the end of the year, examined the girls' needlework and knitting and awarded certificates.

His Excellency the Governor visited each of the schools at the end of the year and was pleased to place on record his appreciation of the work being done by the teaching staff.

IV.—Government Institutions.

(a) HOSPITAL.

There were 132 admissions to hospital during the year, compared with 104 during 1925. The daily average number of in-patients was 8, and of out-patients 18.

A general anaesthetic was administered in 23 cases.

Two cases of beri-beri (both Lascars), were admitted to hospital from a ship; both of these patients died within five days of their admission.

(b) SAVINGS BANK.

There were 243 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank at 31st December, 1926, as compared with 219 at 31st December, 1925.

Deposits during the year amounted to £2,412; deposits in 1925 were £2,754 7s. 7d.

Withdrawals during the year totalled £2,713 1s. 8½d., as compared with £2,172 18s. 7d. in 1925.

Stock to the value of £12,082 0s. 10d. (cost price) was held on behalf of Savings Bank depositors at 31st December, 1926.

V.—Judicial Statistics.

SUPREME COURT.

Five criminal cases came up for trial, and of these, two cases were committed from Ascension. The results of these cases were three convictions and two acquittals.

Three civil actions were tried, one for the recovery of land and two for recovery of debt.

There were sundry applications for probate and administration.

POLICE COURT.

Forty-three cases were dealt with in this Court as compared with eighteen in 1925 and there were thirty-four convictions as compared with twelve in the previous year. These figures do not necessarily indicate an increase in crime as many of the cases were infringements of Education and Revenue Regulations.

POLICE.

The police performed their duties in a satisfactory manner throughout the year. There was no change in the personnel.

The rural police have been placed in charge of the country telephone stations in order that they may be in telephonic communication with the remainder of the Island.

GAOL.

The number of prisoners committed to gaol during the year under review was 9, and 3 were placed under remand, giving a total of 12, an increase of 4 compared with the previous year. Ten were discharged during the year, two prisoners remaining in gaol on 31st December, 1926.

The total cost of the gaol during the year was £114 10s. 4d., an increase of £27 18s. over the expenditure of 1925, which is accounted for by the increase in the number of prisoners.

There has been no sickness during the year under review.

VI.—Legislation.

Eleven Ordinances were promulgated in 1926, being :—

No. 1. *The Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance*.—This is a consolidation of the various enactments relating to Customs dues.

No. 2. *The Commissions of Enquiry Ordinance*.—This Ordinance enables the Governor to appoint a commission to inquire into any subject matter which His Excellency may consider desirable in the public interest.

No. 3 *The Road Tax (Repeal) Ordinance*.—This is an Ordinance repealing the imposition of a road tax on all males in the Colony between the ages of 18 and 60 years.

No. 4. *The Registration (Amendment) Ordinance*.—This Ordinance is (a) To constitute the Office of Registrar-General of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the Colony, with a separate office, and (b) to provide for a duplicate set of records, including those of the Dependency of Ascension.

No. 5. *The Ascension Island Workmens' Protection Ordinance*.—The purpose of this Ordinance is to safeguard the interests of labour imported into the Island of Ascension.

No. 6.—*The Appropriation Ordinance for the Current year*.

No. 7. *The Police Court (Fees) Ordinance*.

No. 8. *The Supplementary Expenditure (1925) Ordinance.*

No. 9. *The Local Legislation (Declaratory) Ordinance.*—This measure constitutes the preliminary step towards the preparation of a Revised Edition of the Ordinances.

No. 10. *The new Edition of the Ordinances Ordinance*, approving the issue of a Revised Edition of the Ordinances.

No. 11. *The Reciprocal Judgments Enforcements Ordinance.*—This is in the nature of reciprocal legislation based on Part II of the Administration of Justice Act, 1920, of England.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

(a) POPULATION.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, was 3,728, as compared with 3,699 at 31st December, 1925.

Deaths during the year numbered 67 (including three seamen landed for hospital treatment) as against 44 in 1925. The death-rate (excluding the three seamen) works out at 17.97 per 1,000 as compared with 12.16 per 1,000 in 1925.

Births registered numbered 111 (not including three still-born). These figures are identical with those of 1925. The birth-rate per 1,000 in 1926 works out at 29.77 as against 30.00 in the previous year.

There were 41 marriages in 1926 as against 29 in 1925.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the community has been satisfactory. A mild epidemic of influenza occurred in February and March: one death was attributable to this epidemic.

It is to be noted that out of a total of 67 deaths, 21 were of persons over the age of 70.

The water supply and drainage systems have proved adequate.

There have been no complaints regarding slaughter-houses and bakeries, and there have been no prosecutions under the Board of Health Ordinance.

(c) WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Skilled and Semi-skilled Workmen,	}	3s. 6d. to 6s. per day.
Carpenters, Masons, Smiths, &c.		
Labourers, agricultural		2s. 6d. per day.
" " female		1s. 6d. to 2s. per day.
Labourers, general		2s. 6d. per day.

Under certain circumstances, when performing work of a particularly arduous nature, e.g., coaling or discharging coal from ships, labourers are paid at a higher rate and earn from 3s. to 5s. per day.

Night work is paid for at the rate of 1s. per hour.

Domestics :—

Housemaids 10s. to 25s. per month, with board and lodging.

Cooks 20s. to 60s. per month, with board and lodging.

Male servants 30s. to 60s. per month, with board and lodging.

Grooms and Gardeners 2s. 6d. per day.

The cost of the principal articles of consumption during the year under review was as follows :—

Meat 1s. per lb.

Fish cheap and good.

Eggs 2s. per dozen.

Butter, Fresh 2s. 6d., Tinned 3s., per lb.

Bread 5d. per 1½ lb. loaf.

Milk 4d. per bottle.

Tea 3s. per lb.

Coffee 2s. 6d. per lb.

Sugar 3½d. per lb.

Rice 3½d. per lb.

Tobacco 11s. per lb.

Whisky 6s. 9d.- 9s. 6d. per bottle.

Kerosene 15s. 6d. per case.

(c) CLIMATE.

Barometer.—The mean barometric pressure for the year was 10,152.2 mb. M.S.L. (29.9 ins.).

The mean temperature was 60.1.

The absolute maximum was reached on 29th October, 76.0.

The absolute minimum was reached on 16th September, 50.0.

The mean wind force for the year under review was 9.7 m.p.h. (3.9 Beaufort notation).

The wind direction for the year was as follows :—

							Days.
E.N.E.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
E.S.E.	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
S.S.E.	...	...	...	...	...	...	210
S.E.	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
S.	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
S.S.W.	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Calm	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No observation	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the year was 28.922 inches. The greatest fall was on the 8th May, 0.892 inches.

These records are taken at Hutts' Gate Observatory, height 2,045 feet.

In Jamestown, about sea-level, the rainfall was 6.022 inches, and number of raindays 66. Average per rainday .09 inches. The greatest fall was .16 inches on the 12th April.

At the Briars Station, height 900 feet, the total for the year was 20.04 inches.

At Plantation, 1,600 feet, the rainfall was 30.16 inches, the greatest fall being 1.37 inches on 8th May, and the number of raindays 227.

VIII.—Post, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

(a) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.

The total postal revenue from all sources amounted to £2,666 7s. 1d., being an increase of £413 9s. as compared with 1925. This increase is chiefly due to the demand for stamps from overseas.

Expenditure.

The expenditure in this department amounted to £982 7s. 3d., an increase of £547 9s. 7d. as compared with 1925. This increase was chiefly due to the necessity for meeting a demand for the carriage of mails for the years 1924 and 1925, and to the printing of stamps.

Mail Matter.

Received from United Kingdom and Ascension :—

	1925.	1926.
Bags of mail	282	221
Parcels	2,207	1,743
Registered articles	1,453	1,038
Insured letters	3	10

Received from South Africa :—

Bags of mail	70	74
Parcels	429	469
Registered articles	463	398

Despatched to United Kingdom and Ascension :—

Bags of mail	73	73
Parcels	305	160
Registered articles	1,815	1,610

Despatched to South Africa :—

Bags of mail	44	48
Parcels	168	166
Registered articles	469	458

Money and Postal Orders.

Issues to United Kingdom and South Africa :—

1925.	1926.
£10,364	£8,737

Issues from United Kingdom and South Africa :—

£2,073	£2,403
--------	--------

No insured or registered article was lost during the year under review.

(b) TELEGRAPHS.

There is no postal or inland telegraph. There is, however, an important cable station, maintained by the Eastern Telegraph Company, where messages are accepted for all parts of the world. This station has recently been brought right up-to-date by the installation of rapid transmission apparatus.

(c) TELEPHONES.

A telephone system is maintained by private subscribers. The rates for telephone service are £5 per instrument per annum.

IX.—General Observations.*(a) REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS.*

The building staff were employed on minor repairs at the Castle, Government House, and the Hospital. They also completed the re-building of a cottage which it had been necessary to raze. The erection of the Arnold Memorial and the installation of the electric light plant at the hospital were also undertaken by the Public Works Department.

(b) ROADS.

The roads, always a difficult proposition, were maintained at their usual standard, and visitors from overseas frequently expressed surprise at the good condition of the roads in the face of such difficulties as exist.

(c) MAINTENANCE OF WATER SERVICE.

The water service remained in a satisfactory condition but there is no doubt that it will be necessary to incur expenditure in this connection at an early date. The present pipe line and the storage tanks have been in existence for very many years, and the Superintendent of Works has expressed the opinion that the town storage tanks are now beyond repair.

DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.*(a) Crown Property.*

There was one meeting of the Commissioners of Crown Property during the year. Four grants of land for flax cultivation were approved.

(b) Quarantine Station.

The quarantine station was open for a period of twenty-one days in the early part of the year owing to the arrival of passengers from a ship having a case of cerebro-spinal meningitis on board. The quarantine arrangements were satisfactory and there was no development of the disease in the Colony.

(c) Poor Board.

Revenue arising on account of the relief of the poor amounted to £991 2s. 7d. as compared with £1,089 14s. 10d. in 1925.

Expenditure amounted to £985 13s. 6d. as compared with £902 13s. 6d. in 1925.

(d) Public Market.

			1925.	1926.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Revenue	...	...	29 12 2	30 17 2
Expenditure	...	...	24 8 11	21 12 5

(e) Girl Guides.

The Girl Guide movement is popular in St. Helena and there are two companies, viz. :—

1. 1st Jamestown (St. James).
2. St. Paul's.

The former is made up of 20 Rangers, 35 Guides and 18 Brownies, while the latter has 8 Rangers and 42 Guides.

Both companies report satisfactory progress for 1926, the usual programme of tests and training having been carried out.

(f) Boy Scouts.

There is one troop of Boy Scouts, in the Colony, consisting of six patrols. The total number of scouts is 48, and of this number 6 will have completed six years' service in June, 1927. Two boys rank as King's Scouts and there are three "all round cords".

The Vicar of Jamestown acts as Scoutmaster and this officer received the medal of merit from the Boy Scouts' Association during the year, the presentation being made by His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of a rally in Government House grounds.

(g) Church Lads Brigade.

There are two companies of the Church Lads Brigade in the Colony. One at St. Paul's consisting of 50 Cadets ranging in age from 14 years to 19 years, and 47 boys in the training corps whose ages range from 9 years to 14 years. The second company is at St. Matthew's and consists of 40 boys of all ranks.

ASCENSION ISLAND.

STATISTICS.

Population.

					1925.	1926.
Men	...	...	...	...	277	265
Women	...	...	...	...	27	26
Children	...	...	...	...	24	12
					<hr/> 328	<hr/> 303

Shipping.

Ships entered and cleared, 34.

Hospital.

In-patients, 71.

Out-patients, 167.

There was one death at Ascension in 1926, that of a St. Helenian who died from tuberculosis.

Rainfall.—The rainfall at Green Mountain was 42.68 inches, and in Georgetown, 10.1 inches.

Temperature.—The temperature taken at 21 hours at 38 feet above sea-level was mean maximum 84.1°, minimum 73.4°. Green Mountain is about 10° Fahrenheit cooler than Georgetown.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

There are on the Island 534 sheep, 29 cattle, 27 pigs, 7 mules, 2 horses, and 12 donkeys. In addition to these domestic animals there are a few wild donkeys roaming the hills.

The year under review has been exceptionally good and an excellent crop of vegetables has been raised, although not enough to supply the inhabitants. Additional supplies are imported from St. Helena and South Africa.

The rainfall having been sufficient it was not necessary to condense water in 1926.

The rainfall was not, however, well distributed, five inches fell in one day in March and nine inches in a few hours in May. The bulk of this heavy fall was lost owing to the insufficient storage provided.

Turtles.—Forty-five turtles were captured in 1926. The season must be regarded as a poor one and the turtles seemingly no longer land in the vicinity of the town, while at the more remote beaches

in the north-west and the south-east, where they formerly resorted in hundreds, they are now only to be found in tens. It must however be borne in mind that the seasons vary considerably.

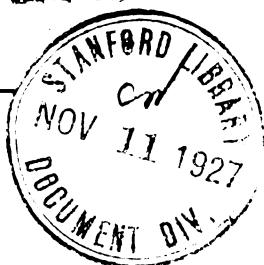
Phosphate and Guano.—A small shipment of guano was made in 1926 and investigations and operations are continuing.

H. J. PINK,
Colonial Treasurer.

The Castle,
24th March, 1927.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1344.



FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

REPORT FOR 1926.

*For Report for 1924 see No. 1256 (Price 1s. 6d.) and for
Report for 1925 see No. 1305 (Price 2s.)*



PRINTED IN THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;

or through any Bookseller.

1927

Price 2s. 0d. net.

58-15-5-26.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased.

ASHANTI.	HONG KONG.
BAHAMAS.	JAMAICA.
BARBADOS.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
BASUTOLAND.	LEEWARD ISLANDS.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.	MAURITIUS.
BERMUDA.	NEW HEBRIDES.
BRITISH GUIANA.	NIGERIA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.	NORTHERN RHODESIA.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.	NYASALAND.
BRUNEL, STATE OF.	ST. HELENA.
CAYMEN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).	ST. LUCIA.
CEYLON.	ST. VINCENT.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.	SEYCHELLES.
CYPRUS.	SIERRA LEONE.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.	SOMALILAND.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
FIJI.	SWAZILAND.
GAMBIA.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
GIBRALTAR.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.	UGANDA.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
GRENADA.	WEI-HAI-WEI.
	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS.	PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN.
IRAQ.	TANGANYIKA.
	TOGOLAND.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1926

BY

WILLIAM PEEL, C.M.G.,

Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States.

KUALA LUMPUR:

PRINTED AT THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1927.

9-6-1927.

CONTENTS.

PREFATORY NOTE.

	Page.
I.—HISTORICAL	1
II.—GEOGRAPHICAL	5
III.—CLIMATE	6
IV.—STATISTICS	7
V.—POPULATION	7
VI.—RAILWAYS	8
VII.—HILL STATIONS	9

ANNUAL REPORT, 1926.

I.—FINANCIAL... ..	12
II.—TRADE, CUSTOMS AND SHIPPING	14
III.—LANDS AND SURVEY	17
IV.—GEOLOGY AND MINING	19
V.—FORESTRY	22
VI.—AGRICULTURE	24
VII.—LEGISLATION	31
VIII.—POLICE	32
IX.—PRISONS	34
X.—MEDICAL	34
XI.—EDUCATION	41
XII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS	44
XIII.—PUBLIC WORKS	45
XIV.—RAILWAYS	47
XV.—CO-OPERATION	49
XVI.—GENERAL	50

APPENDICES.

GENERAL RETURN OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, TRADE, AND
POPULATION.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS STERLING LOAN CAPITAL ACCOUNT TO
31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

[*The value of the dollar is 2s. 4d.*]

[*A pikul is 133½ pounds av.*]

PREFATORY NOTE.

I.—HISTORICAL.

1. The Federated Malay States comprise four States: Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang.

PERAK.

Perak is ruled by a dynasty that claims descent from the last Malay Sultan of Malacca. In the XVIIth century, it was overrun by the Achehnese, and at some time after 1636 a Johore prince, the husband of a Perak princess, was sent by Acheh to rule it under the title of Sultan Mudzaffar Shah. From 1650 onwards, the Dutch endeavoured to get a monopoly of the tin exported from Perak, establishing near the mouth of the Perak river several factories, which the Malays, from time to time, cut off and destroyed. The ruins of a factory opened in 1690 may still be seen at Pangkor. In 1765 the Sultan made a treaty with the Dutch.

2. British influence began early in the XIXth century. A treaty with Penang in 1818 secured to British subjects the right to free trade in Perak. In 1825 a British arbitrator settled the boundary between Perak and Selangor. By the Burney Treaty with Siam in 1826, the independence of Perak and Selangor was recognized, though the Sultan of Perak was permitted to send tribute to Siam if he desired. In the same year, the Sultan ceded to the British the Dindings and the Island of Pangkor as posts for the suppression of piracy, and agreed to rely solely on the protection of Great Britain. From 1872 to 1874 there was almost continuous fighting of more or less severity between rival factions of Chinese in the Larut district where valuable tin deposits had been found.

3. Having regard to the anarchy which prevailed, Sir Andrew Clarke, in 1874, induced the Perak chiefs to sign the Pangkor Treaty, and to accept thereby a Resident whose advice should be "asked and acted upon on all questions other than those touching Malay religion and custom". The murder of the first British Resident (Mr. J. W. Birch) in 1875 led to a military expedition. The country soon settled; and the Malay constitution was restored under a Sultan protected by the British Government. The present Ruler is His Highness Paduka Sri Sultan Iskandar Shah, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., ibni Idris.

SELANGOR.

4. In the XIVth century, Klang, which is now a district of Selangor, is said to have been subject to the Javanese Empire of Majapahit. In the next century, it was given a Penghulu of the family of the Bendaharas of old Malacca, and a son of Sultan Mansur Shah (1458-1477 A.D.) of Malacca by a Chinese wife was made Ruler of Jeram near Langat. During the period of Portuguese ascendancy, little is known of the Selangor coast. Barbosa speaks of "much and good tin" won in Selangor. The Dutch opened factories for the purchase of tin at Kuala Selangor and at Kuala Linggi. In 1718 A.D., Daeng Chelak, a Bugis chief, who had married a Johore princess, settled at Kuala Selangor, and about 1780 their descendant was recognized as Sultan Salehu'd-din by the Ruler of Perak. The throne has remained in the same family ever since. After the failure of an attack on Malacca by a Bugis prince of Riau, Raja Haji, in 1783, the Dutch blockaded Kuala Selangor, and forced the Sultan to acknowledge the suzerainty of Holland.

5. In 1818, the Sultan of Selangor made a commercial treaty with the East India Company at Penang. In 1874, anarchy prevailed amongst the Malay chiefs of Selangor, and pirates ravaged the coastal trade. The Sultan's difficulties were such that he was glad to accept a British Resident, and to come under the protection of Great Britain. The present Ruler is His Highness Sultan Ala'idin Sulaiman Shah, K.C.M.G., ibni Al-Marhum Raja Muda Musa.

NEGRI SEMBILAN.

6. This federation of "Nine States" consists of the four major States of Sungai Ujong, Jelebu, Johol and Rembau, and the five minor States of Ulu Muar, Jempul, Terachi, Gunong Pasir and Inas. Sungai Ujong is mentioned in a Javanese poem in 1365 A.D. as being subject to the Javanese Empire of Majapahit. In the XVth century, it was ruled by Chiefs of

the old kingdom of Malacca. Nearly all the Malay inhabitants of the "Nine States" are descended from immigrants from Menangkabau in Sumatra, and have an interesting matrilineal sociological system. Portuguese accounts prove that this immigration had begun in the XVth century. The evidence seems conclusive that the original Malay federation consisted of Sungai Ujong, Klang (now a district of Selangor), Jelevu, Rembau, Naning (now part of Malacca), Segamat (now in Johore), Pasir Besar (also in Johore, its place having been taken by Johol), Jelai (now Inas) and Ulu Pahang, the region between the Ulu Serting and Temerloh. After the wresting of Malacca from the Portuguese by the Dutch and the Johore Malays in 1641 A.D., Johore took a leading part in Negri Sembilan politics until 1773 A.D., when the Undang or Chiefs of the four major States brought from Sumatra a Yam Tuan named Raja Melewar, ancestor of the present Yang di-pertuan Besar.

7. In 1874, the Dato' Klana, Chief of Sungai Ujong, the most important of the "Nine States" invited and obtained the assistance of the British Government to maintain his rule, and the appointment of a British Resident. In 1883, Jelevu applied for a British officer; and Rembau agreed to refer all its disputes to the British Government, and in 1887 accepted a British adviser. In 1889, the Yam Tuan of Sri Menanti and the Rulers of Tampin and Rembau asked for a Resident, and agreed to a confederation known as "The Old Negri Sembilan". In 1895, the Resident of this confederation took charge of Sungai Ujong and of Jelevu, and the modern Negri Sembilan was constituted. Finally, in 1898, the Yam Tuan of Sri Menanti was elected titular Ruler of the whole State. The present Ruler is His Highness Muhammad, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., ibni Al-Marhum Antah, Yang di-pertuan Besar, Negri Sembilan.

PAHANG.

8. Chao Ju Kua, a Chinese, writing about 1225 A.D., mentions Pahang as being subject to the old Sumatran Buddhist kingdom of Sri Vijaya. Later, Pahang and Tioman are claimed as conquests of Majapahit. Chinese records of the XVth century speak of the people of Pahang making human sacrifices. The "Malay Annals" tell of a town, Pura, near the estuary of the Pahang river, and mention the gold dust, the elephants and the wild oxen of the country. In the XVth century, Sultan Mansur Shah of Malacca captured the Ruler of Pahang, and married his daughter. Modern Muhammadan Pahang starts

with Rulers of the royal house of Malacca. In 1618, the redoubtable Mahkota Alam raided Pahang, and carried off one of its Rulers, who became father of a Sultan of Aceh. Before the old Malacca royal house died out in 1699, its Pahang branch provided several Rulers for the senior throne of Johore, which directly represented the Malacca dynasty. Later, Pahang fell under the suzerainty of the new Sultans of Johore, who, when they removed to Lingga, left a Dato' Bendahara in charge of Pahang.

9. In 1887, Sir Frederick Weld negotiated a treaty with the Bendahara of Pahang, promising British help in the event of external attack, and arranging for a British agent to be stationed at his capital. At the same time, the title of Sultan was substituted for that of Dato' Bendahara. In 1888, the Sultan applied for and obtained British protection, and the appointment of a Resident. The present Ruler is His Highness Al-Mu'tasim Bi'llah Al-Sultan Abdullah, K.C.M.G., ibni Al-Marhum Al-Sultan Ahmad Al-Maazam Shah.

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATES.

10. The supreme authority in each State is vested in the Sultan, or the Ruler, in State Council. His Highness the Sultan or the Ruler presides over the State Council. The British Resident is a member, and in Perak and in Selangor the Secretary to Resident is also a member. The other members consist of members of the royal family, the leading chiefs and some Chinese. Since the creation of a Federal Council, the State Councils legislate only in matters affecting the State.

THE FEDERATION.

11. In 1895, a Treaty was signed by the Rulers of the four States by which they agreed to constitute their countries into a Federation, which was to be known as the Federated Malay States, and to be administered under the advice of the British Government, while all existing treaties and arrangements were to stand. The States agreed to the appointment of an officer to be styled Resident-General (a title which has since been altered to Chief Secretary to Government) as the agent and representative of the British Government under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. They agreed to follow his advice in all matters of administration other than those touching the Muhammadan religion, provided that the relations between the Malay Rulers and the British Residents remained unaffected. In 1909, a Federal Council was created in order to give effect to a desire

for the joint arrangement of all matters of common interest to the Federation or affecting more than one State, and for the proper enactment of all laws intended to have force throughout the Federation or any more than one State. The Federal Council, as now constituted, consists of the High Commissioner for the Malay States (an appointment held *ex officio* by the Governor of the Straits Settlements) as President, Their Highnesses the Sultans of Perak, Selangor and Pahang, His Highness the Yam Tuan of Negri Sembilan, the Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, the four British Residents, the Legal Adviser, the Financial Adviser, and eight unofficial members, who are nominated by the High Commissioner with the approval of His Majesty the King. The Federal Council generally meets at least three times a year. All Federal legislation is passed by it, and the estimates of expenditure and revenue require its approval. (The Federal Council has since been reconstituted, a new Agreement being signed on April 24th, 1927.)

II.—GEOGRAPHICAL.

12. Perak is the northernmost of the three States on the West Coast of the Peninsula. It comprises 7,800 square miles. On the North, it borders with Province Wellesley (Straits Settlements), Kedah and Siam; and on the East, it is separated from Kelantan and Pahang by the main range of granite mountains that form the backbone of the Peninsula. The Perak river (170 miles long) is the principal river of the State. On the North, the Krian river is the boundary with Kedah; and on the South, the Bernam river separates the State from Selangor. The highest mountain is Korbu (7,160 feet). The capital of the State is Taiping.

13. Selangor (3,156 square miles), also on the West Coast, is separated from Pahang on the East by the mountain range, and from Negri Sembilan by the Sepang river. Its highest peak is Ulu Kali (5,820 feet). Port Swettenham, the principal harbour of the Federated Malay States, is situated on the estuary of the Klang River in this State. Kuala Lumpur, the Federal capital, and also the capital of the State, is situated some thirty miles further up the Klang River.

14. Negri Sembilan, south of Selangor, comprises 2,550 square miles. On the South, it borders with Johore, and on the East, with Pahang. In the southern part of the State, the great mountain range has disappeared, and the water-parting between the West and East Coast is merely hilly, and in places is nearly flat ground. The highest peak in Negri Sembilan is Telapak Burok (3,915 feet). Seremban is the capital.

15. Pahang, the only State of the Federation on the East Coast, comprises 14,000 square miles. It is bordered on the South by Johore, on the West by Negri Sembilan, Selangor and Perak, and on the North by Trengganu and Kelantan. The highest mountain in the Peninsula (Tahan, 7,184 feet) is in this State.

III.—CLIMATE.

16. The temperature of the West Coast of the Malay Peninsula has but small daily range and little appreciable variation. On the East Coast, however, the North-East Monsoon, lasting from November to March, causes a distinct meteorological contrast with the rest of the year as regards wind and rainfall. Records from typical stations on the West of the Peninsula, where the South-West Monsoon is broken by Sumatra, show a decrease of rainfall from May to August. At Kuala Lipis on the east of the main range, there is a general rise in rainfall from February until May, succeeded in some years by a distinct drop in July and August; there is a further rise culminating in October and November, followed by a fall to moderate rainfall in December and January. Charts, however, cannot bring out two points: the brilliant sunshine, which is the rule during the morning, and the dry spells of a fortnight or more, when the grass becomes parched. In the mountains the rainfall is high, particularly in the Larut Hills above Taiping where the average at "The Cottage" (Maxwell's Hill), 4,513 feet, for the years 1904-1926 was 253 inches. This station however is very exceptional, as the mean for other hill stations of approximately the same altitude is: Fraser's Hill (4,125 feet) 119 inches, Cameron's Highlands (4,750 feet) 120 inches. The district of Jelebu, which is shielded from the influence of both North-East and South-West Monsoons is by far the driest and has an average rainfall in the years 1891-1925 of 64 inches.

On the West Coast of the Peninsula the coastal stations are the driest, the average rainfall being about 84 inches. This gradually increases landwards, and the stations close to the foot of the main range of mountains show an average fall of about 115 inches. The opposite is true of the eastern side of the Peninsula where the coast stations show a mean of about 122 inches, due entirely to the heavy falls experienced during North-East Monsoon; and the inland stations showing a mean of about 94 inches.

Negri Sembilan, owing to the absence of high mountains, has the lowest rainfall of the States of the Federation, the average of seven stations being only 80 inches.

The heat, owing to the moisture of the atmosphere, is at times oppressive, although 100° has never been recorded in the shade. The nights are cool. On the highest mountains, the temperature has been known to fall at nights to 46° Fahrenheit. In the day time, there is almost always a breeze to modify the heat. The Peninsula lies within the region of the South-West and North-East Monsoons, but, owing to the barrier provided by Sumatra, the only real strong wind is the North-East Monsoon, which strikes the East Coast from across the China Sea. Violent squalls, known as "Sumatras", are not infrequent on the West Coast of the Peninsula between April and September. Generally, they are of short duration and occur during the night.

IV.—STATISTICS.

17. The return, which forms the appendix to this report, shows for every year from 1889 onwards particulars of revenue, expenditure, imports, exports, duty on tin, duty on rubber, land revenue, railway receipts and population.

V.—POPULATION.

18. The census taken on the 24th April, 1921, shows that the population of the Federated Malay States was then 1,324,890, having increased since 1911 by 27.7 per cent. Of this population 853,528 are males and 471,362 females, the rate of increase since 1911 having been 17.7 and 51.1 respectively.

The Malay population rose from 420,840 in 1911 to 510,821 in 1921, an increase of 21.3 per cent. The rates of increase of the Malay population were 20.1 per cent. in Perak, 41.3 per cent. in Selangor, 11.3 per cent. in Negri Sembilan, and 17.3 per cent. in Pahang. The very high rate of increase in Selangor, where, in the Kuala Selangor district, the Malay population practically doubled since 1911, is due to the influx of foreign Malays, who have settled in the Coast districts to plant rubber.

The Chinese population of the Federated Malay States was 494,548 or only 61,304 more than in 1911. Practically the whole of this increase was in Chinese females, who now number 351 to 1,000 males as compared with 188 in 1911, and the lessening disparity between the sexes among the Chinese indicates a general tendency towards their permanent settlement in the Federated Malay States.

The rise in the Indian population was a marked feature of the 1921 census. In 1901, 58,386 persons of Indian nationality were enumerated; ten years later the number had risen to 172,465, the increase synchronising with the early development of the

rubber planting industry, while in 1921 Indians in the Federated Malay States totalled 305,219. The percentages of increase since 1911 were 77.2 in Perak, 78.9 in Selangor, 84.4 in Negri Sembilan, and 81.4 in Pahang. More than four-fifths of the Indians in the Federated Malay States are Tamils.

The European population of the Federated Malay States rose from 3,284 in 1911 to 5,686 in 1921, of whom 93.2 per cent. are of British nationality. The most satisfactory feature of the census is that all the statistics, of sex, of marriage, of age and of birth place, show that the immigrant races, who have done so much to develop the resources of the Federated Malay States, are ceasing to look upon these States as a place of temporary sojourn and are tending more and more to make their permanent home here.

VI.—RAILWAYS.

19. The Federated Malay States Government owns the railways both in the Federated Malay States, the Straits Settlements (Singapore Island, Malacca, Province Wellesley) and the Unfederated States of Kedah, Perlis and Kelantan. It has leased the Johore State Railway (121 miles), extending from Johore Bahru at the southern extremity of the Peninsula and opposite Singapore Island, to Gemas on the boundary between Johore and the Federated Malay States. At Gemas, the line branches into the West Coast and the East Coast lines; the West Coast line runs North-North-West through Negri Sembilan, Selangor, Perak and Province Wellesley to Prai—the port opposite Penang Harbour—about 488 miles from Singapore. From Bukit Mertajam, seven miles from Prai, the line proceeds through the Unfederated States of Kedah and Perlis to the Siamese frontier station of Padang Besar, 580 miles from Singapore. Through traffic with the Royal State Railways of Siam was opened on July 1st, 1918, the distance between Singapore and Bangkok being 1,188 miles.

20. The East Coast line proceeds northward from Gemas through Negri Sembilan and Pahang towards Tumpat, Kelantan. It is completed and opened for traffic as far as Chigar Perah Station, 23 miles beyond Kuala Lipis, the capital of Pahang, and 164 miles from Gemas. At the end of 1926, the permanent way had been laid to beyond the Kelantan frontier. A section of 53 miles in Kelantan between Tumpat on the East Coast and Krai, is open for traffic, and this line when extended southward will meet the East Coast line from Gemas and provide through direct communication with Singapore from Kelantan. Construction is in progress southwards of Krai towards Pahang. The distance

between railheads in Kelantan is 60 miles. Railhead at the end of 1926 was at the 70th mile, and earthwork, etc., was in progress up to the Pahang boundary. An extension—13 miles long—has been made from Pasir Mas in Kelantan to the Golok River at the Siamese boundary, where it joins the Siamese line running to Haad Yai Junction, 145 miles distant, where a junction is made with the main Bangkok-Penang-Singapore line. Through working between the Federated Malay States and Kelantan via the Royal State Railways of Siam commenced on November 1st, 1921.

21. Branch lines connect the main line with the ports on the West Coast at Malacca, Port Dickson, Port Swettenham, Teluk Anson Wharf and Port Weld. At Prai on the mainland opposite Penang, work as contemplated on the wharves has been carried out. A causeway to carry two lines of rails and a roadway has been built across the Johore Strait connecting the Island of Singapore with the mainland:

22. The total length of line (first track) now open to traffic under the Federated Malay States Railway Administration is 1,005 miles. The line is of metre gauge. On the mail trains on the West Coast main line, there are sleeping saloons and restaurant cars. There are 247 permanent stations and 31 flag stations. The expenditure on capital account (including lines not yet open for traffic) was \$205,141,595 up to 31st December, 1926, of which \$172,303,292 was met from revenue, and \$32,838,303 from loan account.

VII.—HILL STATIONS.

CAMERON'S HIGHLANDS.

23. The development of Cameron's Highlands as a hill station has been definitely decided on by Government.

A Development Committee consisting of six officials and two unofficials was appointed on 28th May, 1926, under the chairmanship of the Director of Public Works.

The Committee met twice during the year and submitted several recommendations to Government. It has been decided that the Highlands should be developed on the lines of a temporary holiday resort, like Fraser's Hill, and the siting of a permanent township of Federal capital is not contemplated. The main object of development is the creation of a healthy hill station rather than the extension of agriculture, but as it is hoped to supply food-stuffs that will be of benefit to people who cannot use the station itself, the reservation of areas suitable

for agricultural development will be considered. It is by no means certain that there will be a large area available for agricultural purposes at the Highlands. The area above Robinson Falls may prove to be none too large even for residential purposes and the valleys of the Habu and Ringlet, hitherto looked upon as agricultural areas, may be required as an extension to the residential area.

FRASER'S HILL.

24. The road from the Gap was commenced in the year 1920 and finished in 1922. The Government has, at present, nine bungalows which are intended for the use of Government employees but which may be occupied by other than Government employees if there is a vacancy.

Another Government bungalow is now under construction and a house for the Chief Secretary to Government is to be commenced soon.

From Red Cross funds four houses have been completed and are in occupation; two are, primarily, for the use of ex-service men and women and in the others, applications supported by medical certificates receive priority.

Three private houses have been completed, and work is in hand on six other sites involving the construction of nine additional bungalows. Thirteen sites were allotted to applicants during the year.

The water supply is almost completed and a sewage disposal system will be taken in hand soon.

The golf course will be opened in 1927.

GUNONG ANGSI.

25. This is a small hill station containing only a single bungalow at a height of approximately 2,500 feet. It is approached from the Tampin-Seremban Road, and is reached by a good bridle-path.

GUNONG TAHAN.

26. The establishment of a hill station at Gunong Tahan was first considered in 1912, and Sir Arthur Young, then High Commissioner for the Malay States, led an expedition to the mountain, with a view to investigating its possibilities. As a result of this visit, a topographical survey was carried out in 1913, and surveys were made for a road and railway connection. The length of the line from the junction of the Pahang-Kelantan line was approximately 30 miles, of which 20 miles were to be

constructed as an ordinary railway, and 10 miles as a rack railway. The outbreak of the war prevented further progress with the scheme. Meteorological observations were taken from July, 1921, to July, 1923. The rainfall for the first year was 137.78 inches, and for the second year 161.69 inches. The rainiest month was January, 1923, with 29 inches, and the driest was February, 1923, with 2.43 inches. The highest maximum temperature recorded was 76°F. on three occasions, and the lowest minimum temperature 48°F. There appears to be no record of investigations into the area available for the residential purposes or for cultivation. When the revised programme of works in connection with the Loan Account was prepared in 1921, the provision for the railway to Gunong Tahan was omitted, and the proposal for the development of Gunong Tahan as a hill station is, for the present at least, abandoned.

KLEDANG.

27. This hill is 2,646 feet above sea-level, and has only two bungalows. It is reached by a large road to the foot of the hill, and a good bridle-path, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, leads to the bungalows.

MAXWELL'S HILL.

28. Maxwell's Hill is situated on the mountain range near Taiping, the capital of Perak, and is named after the late Sir William Maxwell, K.C.M.G., who, as Assistant Resident, first made a clearing there. At the Tea Gardens (2,152 feet) on the way up, there is a bungalow with eight bed-rooms. At Maxwell's Hill itself there are six comfortable bungalows at an elevation of between 3,400 and 3,650 feet. "The Cottage" (the bungalow of the Chief Secretary to Government) and "The Box" (the bungalow of the British Resident, Perak) are on two peaks at heights of 4,580 feet and 4,076 feet respectively. The rainfall of the hill is high, but the flower gardens are attractive, and the dairy and vegetable gardens are well maintained.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1926.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Budget for 1926.

1. The estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 1926 provided for a revenue of \$84,527,002, and an expenditure (excluding Railway capital expenditure and other expenditure on public works provided for, out of loan moneys) of \$70,903,381.

Actual revenue and expenditure.

2. The actual revenue for the year was \$102,541,400 and the expenditure \$87,663,747. Thus the surplus was \$14,877,653 against an estimated surplus of \$13,623,621. The principal excesses of revenue as compared with the estimate were \$5,225,880 under Customs, \$2,371,206 under Excise, \$1,087,082 under Licences, \$1,030,576 under Fees of Court, etc., \$1,443,758 under Interest, \$1,341,742 under Land Sales, \$806,793 under Sale of Property and \$3,140,545 under Railways. The largest savings in expenditure were: Railways (expenditure on revenue account), \$1,670,861; Medical, \$394,306; Public Works Department, \$373,844; Education, \$888,221; Posts and Telegraphs, \$207,311; and Surveys, \$230,052.

The excess over estimated expenditure was \$22,007,288, the largest items being Pensions \$496,458, Military \$476,644, and Miscellaneous Services \$20,886,716. The excess under the head of Miscellaneous Services included \$17,142,857 (£2,000,000) contribution to the Singapore Naval Base and a sum of \$3,548,571 written off in respect of loan and interest due by the Kelantan Government. The contribution of £2,000,000 to the Naval Base is payable over a period of five years, but the whole sum has been set aside out of revenue as a special fund.

Public debt.

3. The public debt which stood at \$95,185,714, on 31st December, 1925, has been reduced to \$80,185,714 on 31st December, 1926, the Straits Settlements 7 per cent. Loan of \$15,000,000 having been repaid on 1st May, 1926, and now consists of the Straits Settlements Sterling Loan of (£9,355,000) \$80,185,714. The first instalment of this loan (£5,155,000) was issued in December, 1921, at 97, bearing interest at 6 per cent., and the second instalment (£4,200,000) was issued in May, 1922, at 95, bearing interest at 4½ per cent. After deducting the expenses of issue, the proceeds of these two instalments amounted to \$74,297,549. Of this sum, \$55,646,656 has been spent upon Railway and other works, leaving unexpended balance on the 31st December, 1926, of \$18,650,893. The Sinking Funds, contributions to which commenced in 1925, amounted to \$4,098,238.

The Loan to Siam.

4. The Loan to the Siamese Government (£4,630,000) \$39,685,714, which is repayable by 26 annual instalments commencing on the 1st January, 1924, has been reduced to \$36,890,001, on 31st December, 1926, by the payment of the third instalment due on 1st January, 1926. As this loan is being repaid by equal yearly payments to include principal and interest, the principal part of the instalments will steadily increase.

5. The following statement shows the assets and liabilities on the 31st December, 1926 :

	\$	c.		\$	c.
Capital Account (Straits Settlements Sterling Loan) Balance at credit thereof (a) ...	18,650,893	14	Cash in Treasuries and Banks as per distribution statement ...	8,308,368	48
Sundry Outstanding Accounts ...	1,430,769	83	Cash with Agencies—		
Straits Settlements Government War Service Land Grant Scheme ...	5,474	22	Crown Agents ...	77,031.50	
Due to India ...	351,698	78	F.M.S. & S.S. Joint a/c, India ...	34,455.12	
Ceylon Agency Account ...	94,866	51	Malay States Information Agency ...	10,450.23	
Family Remittances ...	4,429	74	Penang Agency ...	53,300.87	
Deposits—			Singapore Agency ...	431,479.19	
Courts ...	\$145,983.82		Cash in Transit ...		
Forests ...	255,813.41		Fixed Deposits ...		
Lands ...	940,368.68		Advances at call and other temporary investments by Crown Agents ...		
Postal ...	235,728.18		Investments (Surplus Funds)—		
Miscellaneous ...	1,235,947.41		S.S. Municipal Debentures (at cost) \$	7,200.00	
	2,841,881	50	Sterling Securities \$	8,891,963.77	
Sundry Funds—			Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Co. Ltd. ...	2,081,034.82	
Bailey Fund ...	\$ 938.25		Less Redemption Reserve ...	10,973,003.59	
Police Fine and Reward Fund ...	26,619.40			10,966,663.77	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund ...	236,638.57		Investments—Singapore Naval Base Contribution Account ...		
Red Cross Fund ...	4,635.36		Investments—Opium Revenue—Replacement Reserve Fund ...		
Victoria Institution Building Fund ...	91,740.24		Investments (Specific Funds) (at cost)—		
Composition Stamp Duty Fund, 4½ per cent. Loan ...	290,749.50		Bailey Fund ...	\$ 938.25	
Miscellaneous ...	54,159.13		Police Fine and Reward Fund ...	21,226.75	
	705,480	45	Public Officers' Guarantee Fund ...	208,374.77	
War Savings Certificates, 1924-1927 ...	10,904	34	V. I. Building Fund ...	90,840.24	
Singapore Naval Base Contribution Account ...	17,142,857	14	Security Deposits Account ...	51,718.00	
Opium Revenue—Replacement Reserve Fund ...	12,637,272	53	W. & O. Contribution Account ...	5,895.00	
Inter-Treasury Accounts ...	255	20	Fire Insurance Fund—Railway Composition Stamp Duty Fund, 4½ per cent. Loan with Crown Agents ...	15,000.00	
Suspense ...	59,194	97		290,749.50	
Capital Fund—Bagan Serai Rice Mill ...	392,429	73	Investments—War Savings Certificates (at cost) ...		
Capital Fund—Kuala Kurau Rice Mill ...	250,000	00	Family Remittances ...		
Capital Fund—F. M. S. Government Factory ...	400,000	00	Due by other Governments—		
Surplus—			Ceylon ...	\$ 543.41	
Reserved for Railway Capital Expenditure and Major Public Works \$	335,129,741.43		India ...	4,326.08	
Balance unallocated ...	48,958,358.86		Johore ...	6,905.30	
	84,088,100	29	Kedah ...	6,763.33	
			Kelantan ...	4,869.71	
			Sarawak ...	780.32	
			Singapore ...	11,219.50	
			Trengganu ...	9,770.39	
			Sundry Outstanding Accounts ...		
			Loans—		
			Siamese Government (b) ...	\$36,880,001.12	
			Brunei Government ...	410,500.00	
			Perlis Government ...	150,000.00	
			Planters ...	407,950.59	
			War Service Land Grant Scheme ...	1,939,885.03	
			Miscellaneous ...	1,326,032.40	
				41,124,369	14
			Advances ...	372,289	82
			Imprests ...	122,041	76
			Bentong Tailings Retention Scheme ...	54,481	80
			Stores and Materials Account, Railways ...	1,981,225	86
			" " " Post Office ...	982,708	28
			" " " P.W.D. ...	73,897	53
			" " " Marine Slipway ...	35,077	31
			Marine Slipway Account ...	15,232	75
			Museums, Natural Products Account ...	1,000	00
			Furniture making Account, Forest Department ...	4,627	46
			Timber Account—Forest Department ...	31,755	78
			Rottan Account—Forest Department ...	1,970	15
			Sundry Assets ...	41,312	69
			Suspense ...	319,004	81
			Bagan Serai Rice Mill ...	392,429	73
			Kuala Kurau Rice Mill ...	250,000	00
			F.M.S. Government Factory ...	400,000	00
				139,056,498	37

NOTES:

(a) The Straits Settlements Sterling Loan, the first two instalments of which totalling £29,335,000 (£29,185,714.29) have been fully subscribed, appears on the credit side of the Capital Account (*vide* Appendix B). The expenses of issue of the loan and expenditure on works authorised to be carried out from loan funds appear on the debit side of the same account, the loan being repayable by Sinking Fund, the instalments of which are provided out of revenue.

(b) Repayment of this loan of \$36,885,714.30 by 26 yearly instalments commenced on 1st January, 1924.

Loans to
Unfederated
States and
Brunei.

6. The total loans to Unfederated States and to Brunei, which amounted to \$4,298,929 on 31st December, 1925, had been reduced to \$560,500 on 31st December, 1926, and are made up as follows: Perlis, \$150,000; and Brunei, \$410,500. Kelantan loans amounting to \$3,684,929 were settled during the year by the repayment of \$136,358, the balance having been written off (*vide* para. 2).

Surplus.

7. The surplus on 31st December, 1925, was \$69,210,448. As the revenue for the year exceeded the expenditure by \$14,877,653, the surplus was increased to \$84,088,101 on 31st December, 1926, of which a sum of \$34,896,963 has been reserved for Railway capital expenditure and major public works, leaving a balance of \$49,191,138 unallocated on 31st December, 1926. The statement in para. 5 shows that the surplus of \$84,088,101 is not represented by cash, but shows that advances at call and other temporary investments with the Crown Agents together with investments of surplus funds have risen to \$60,272,171 from \$47,564,968 on the corresponding date in the preceding year.

Sterling loan
capital
account.

8. A statement of the sterling loan capital account is published as appendix B to this report. The sum of \$80,185,714 (representing £9,000,000) has been raised, and the available balance which had been \$33,262,022 on the 31st December, 1925, was reduced to \$18,650,893 on the 31st December, 1926, by the expenditure during the year on loan account.

II.—TRADE, CUSTOMS AND SHIPPING.

Companies.

9. During the year, 56 local companies with a total nominal capital of \$35,764,500 were incorporated and registered as compared with 38 companies (\$19,285,166) in 1925, 25 companies (\$12,324,763) in 1924, and 22 companies (\$12,367,784) in 1923.

The largest number of companies registered in recent years was 54 companies (\$38,934,928) in 1920.

The main objects of the new local companies were rubber-planting (20), mining (18) and general trading (6).

One company was formed for each of the following purposes, mining and rubber planting, coconut planting, oil palm extraction, cinema, hospital, house building, banking, manufacturing rubber products, dress making, dealing in ironware and hardware, broking, and newspaper publication.

The number of companies in liquidation in 1926 was 16: and during the year four local companies were struck off the register as defunct.

There were 296 companies on the register at the end of the year.

10. The aggregate value of trade for the year 1926 was Trade. \$619,487,927, shewing an increase of \$70,493,310 or over 12.8 per cent. as compared with the previous record of the year 1925. This satisfactory position is due largely to increased rubber exports and the higher prices ruling for tin. The distribution per head of the population was nearly £52 as compared with approximately £46 in the year 1925.

Erratum Slip.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Page 14, paragraph 7, line 4, for "\$34,896,963" read "\$35,129,741" and line 6, for "\$49,191,138" read "\$48,958,359".

1926 ... 173,887,724 ... 445,600,203 ... 271,712,479

11. The percentage distribution of the import and export trade of the Federated Malay States for the last two years was as follows: Distribution of trade.

		Imports, 1925.		Imports, 1926.		Exports, 1925.		Exports, 1926.
Singapore	...	45.43	...	43.25	...	22.00	...	22.56
Penang	...	23.31	...	21.22	...	29.75	...	26.17
Malacca	...	1.13	...	1.01	...	3.30	...	2.89
Unfederated Malay States	...	2.38	...	1.38	...	0.23	...	0.26
United Kingdom	...	12.00	...	13.35	...	15.47	...	18.62
British Possessions	...	5.47	...	5.95	...	0.72	...	1.22
Foreign countries	...	10.28	...	13.84	...	28.53	...	28.28
		100%	...	100%	...	100%	...	100%

12. The total revenue from Customs, Excise and the Chandu Monopoly amounted to \$54,123,168, constituting a fresh record, being \$9,758,952 in excess of the previous highest record reached in the year 1925. Revenue from Customs, etc.

Import duties contributed \$8,572,962, an increase of \$1,537,140, export duties aggregated \$27,053,261, an increase of \$4,099,994, and excise duties, licences, etc., produced \$2,276,704, shewing an increase of \$460,926 as compared with the receipts for 1925.

Opium.

13. The nett revenue from the Chandu Monopoly was \$15,110,897 as compared with \$11,942,811 in 1925.

The year 1926 was the first year during which no licences were issued to private individuals for the sale of chandu: all retail shops and smoking saloons were directly supervised and controlled by officers of the Chandu Branch of the Trade and Customs Department.

The increase in revenue from the sale of chandu amounted to just over three million dollars due mainly to the continued prosperity of the country.

14. There was a marked decrease in rubber smuggling during the year due (a) to 100 per cent. of standard production being exportable from 1st February, 1926, and (b) to the prolonged spell of dry weather owing to which many estates were unable to produce their exportable allowance. With a more generous rainfall towards the end of the year smuggling tended to increase.

The following comparative table gives the number of seizures, convictions, fines imposed and quantity of rubber seized for the whole restriction area during 1925 and 1926:

	No. of boats seized.	No. of persons convicted.	Fines imposed.	Quantity seized.
1925	... 284 ...	715 ...	\$3,048,850 ...	6,646 pikuls
1926	... 58 ...	130 ...	544,421 ...	1,419 ,,

In order to counteract the activities of smugglers powers were given to certain Preventive Officers of the Customs Department under the Rubber Supervision Enactment and a great deal of attention was devoted to inspection of rubber dealers' premises and books. The following figures shew the progress made:

	Prosecutions.	Convictions.
Rubber Supervision Enactment ...	... 61 ...	56
Rubber Restriction Enactment ...	... 24 ...	23

As a result of these prosecutions a large quantity of rubber was seized and many vehicles confiscated.

Shipping.

15. The number of ocean-going steamers, which called at Port Swettenham during the year, was 595 with a tonnage of 2,349,066 against 481 with a tonnage of 1,898,804 in 1925. The number of local steamers calling at the port was 751 with a total tonnage of 371,613 against 690 with a tonnage of 434,110

in the previous year. The total number of vessels, other than native craft, which entered and cleared at the various ports of the Federated Malay States, aggregated 11,093 with a total tonnage of 6,714,015 as against 11,659 vessels in 1925 with a total tonnage of 6,112,641.

16. During the year, 135 bankruptcy notices were issued, 62 bankruptcy petitions filed, 35 receiving orders and 33 adjudication orders made. Bankruptcy.

There was a decrease in the work as compared with the preceding year in Selangor and Negri Sembilan, but a considerable increase in Perak.

Four compositions were approved by the Court.

Two orders of committal were made, and there were two convictions for absconding.

Fifteen applications were made for discharge: eight were granted.

III.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

17. There was at the end of the year in private occupation about 2,345,083 acres held under agricultural titles, and 195,123 acres held under mining titles. Area under title.

18. It is estimated that, of the 27,623 square miles covered by the four States of the Federation, 14.3 per cent. is land in private occupation, 19.2 per cent. is forest reserve and 66.5 per cent. is still State land, including land reserved for other purposes than forests.

19. The land revenue (including \$1,691,367 derived from land sales), amounted to \$6,199,206 as compared with \$4,658,899 (including \$561,493 derived from land sales) collected in 1925. Land revenue.

20. The cost of the Survey Department, Federated Malay States, is summarised as follows: Cost of Survey Department.

	Expenditure.		Revenue.		Nett cost.
	\$		\$		\$
Revenue Account ...	1,193,081	...	372,355	...	820,726
Capital Account ...	385,559	...	106,141	...	279,418
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	1,578,640	...	478,496	...	1,100,144
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

21. The actual amount earned on Revenue Surveys, not taking into account partly completed work, according to the schedule of survey fees in force, was \$409,000 or 50 per cent. Revenue Surveys.

of the cost of the Revenue Branch. It is hoped to increase this percentage appreciably. During the year there was a large demand for land both for agriculture and mining. The apparent progress of surveys would have been greater as shown in percentage of earnings, had the policy not been to do just so much work on a large number of requisitions as would allow the owner to enter into occupation. There is therefore a lot of work partly completed. This applies more particularly to mining land, but it is also true of a large area of agricultural land in Negri Sembilan where the policy of surveying an actual road trace through the area led to inevitable delay in designing the lay-out of the area and in the consequent final survey, but occupation was rendered possible in advance of the final preparation of the title.

Topographical.

22. The work of the Topographical Branch was distributed in Pahang, Penang and Kedah, while the detailed surveys of the towns of Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh were continued. Shortage of coolie labour prevented the area surveyed in Pahang from being as great as was hoped. In the Federated Malay States the standard map work will be continued in Pahang and pushed forward ahead of development as fast as possible.

The Trigonometrical work was confined to some revision work in Perak and to second and third order work in advance of the Topographers, together with a certain amount of accurate levelling for the Public Works Department.

Training.

23. The systematic effort to improve efficiency has been maintained and in addition to inspections the scheme of collecting the Assistant Surveyors in a camp for a month's intensive training was tried. It proved such a success that in 1927 it will be repeated with the Federated Malay States as a unit instead of having a separate camp in each State. The results both of the camps for field officers and of the classes for the office staff are very encouraging.

Maps.

24. The Map Production Branch has maintained the high quality of its publications and one of the most striking features of the year has been the very large increase in the demand for maps and plans by the public. The State maps showing alienated land are all up-to-date to the end of 1925 not only for the Federated States but also for Kedah and Johore, and the General Map of Malaya has been brought up-to-date to the same period and printed with distinguishing colours for the different States.

25. The need of a proper building for a Technical School and of a hostel for the students is very keenly felt and is very prejudicial to recruiting the right type of apprentice. There is a very serious shortage of field subordinates and it will be several years before the effect of present recruiting is felt. The training period both for field and office apprentices is four years. Experience has shown that it is unwise to cut down this period by more than one year even for the most promising recruits, but the system now in force, i.e., two years in the Technical School and two years in office or field, should in time result in a really efficient staff. Recruiting.

26. A noteworthy feature of the year was the invitation from the Unfederated States of Kedah, Johore and Kelantan to the Surveyor-General to make a report on the surveys in those States. The invitations were very welcome as visits of that nature enable the Head-Quarters staff to keep in touch with seconded officers and lead to the introduction of systematic methods of work. Reports were furnished to the respective Governments during the course of the year. The annual conference attended by the Superintendents of the Straits Settlements and of all the Malay States was held in October. General.

IV.—GEOLOGY AND MINING.

27. Progress was made with the geological survey in Johore and in Trengganu. No further work was possible in Kelantan. A map showing the progress of the geological survey, on the scale 1 inch=6 miles, was prepared; also a new map of the Kinta tin-field based on the one inch topographical survey, to replace the 1913 geological sketch-map. A geological survey of Malacca was completed and a geological map printed. Two new minerals were identified, "thorotungstite", and an hydrated magnesium borate, the former occurring on the Kramat Pulai Ltd. Mine, the latter in the rich tin-deposit in the limestone of the Beatrice Mine, Selibin. The Assistant Geologist, Mr. E. S. Willbourn, was selected as a delegate to attend the Pan-Pacific Science Congress at Tokyo. Geology.

28. The export of tin-ore, reduced to a metallic basis, and of block tin during the year was 45,947 tons compared with 45,926 tons in 1925 and 44,043 tons in 1924. The export of tin-ore represents about 88 per cent. of the total. The export duty (in millions of dollars) was \$15.6 in 1926, \$14.00 in 1925 and \$12.26 in 1924. Export of tin.

Price of tin.

29. The year opened with the price of tin at \$142.37 per pikul, by the end of January the price had fallen away slightly to \$136.87, it recovered to \$144.12 by the middle of March and then sagged again until by the 8th of June it had dropped to \$131.75, the lowest price for the year. Thereafter an improvement took place which culminated in the highest price for the year being reached, viz., \$157.50, on the 8th of October. From then until the close of the year the price remained comparatively steady, the closing price at the end of the year being \$152.37. The average price for the year was \$144.59.

Fluctuations in price of tin.

30. The following table shows the fluctuations in the price of tin for the last seven years in dollars per pikul:

Heading.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Highest ...	212.00	*115.00	93.62	121.00	148.00	145.50	157.50
Average ...	150.67	85.04	80.64	101.75	124.19	131.77½	144.59
Lowest ...	90.00	72.00	71.75	88.50	100.75	116.00	131.75
Fluctuation	122.00	43.00	21.87	32.50	47.25	29.50	25.75

* Government purchase price.

Labour.

31. The labour force engaged in mining (including dulang pass holders) was 116,216 at the end of the year. The figures for the preceding three years were: in 1925, 115,049; in 1924, 114,273; in 1923, 104,556. The total does not include labour employed on the extraction and transport of firewood. The shortage of labour greatly decreased towards the end of the year, though there was an increase in wages.

Tungsten.

32. The export of tungsten ores (wolfram and scheelite) of Federated Malay States origin was as follows for this and the previous year:

			Wolfram.		Scheelite.
1926	...	...	49.40 tons	...	40.18 tons
1925	...	...	131.48 "	...	27.02 "

Gold.

33. The production of gold from the Raub Gold Mines was 12,981 ounces as compared with 12,526 ounces in 1925. In addition alluvial gold was recovered in various places to the extent of 1,433 ounces.

34. The production of coal from the Malayan Collieries Limited, Selangor, was 456,522 tons, an increase of 48,788 tons on the previous year. Consumption was as follows: Coal.

Federated Malay States Railways	...	...	218,886 tons
Mines	...	...	205,202 ..
Other F.M.S. consumers	...	...	4,498 ..
Exported	...	...	349 ..
Consumed at the Collieries	...	...	28,187 ..
			<hr/>
			456,522 ..
			<hr/>

The Enggor Coal Syndicate Limited, Perak, which reached the producing stage in the latter part of 1925, produced during 1926, 7,762 tons. The output was consumed as follows:

Federated Malay States Railways	...	...	1,155 tons
Mines	...	...	5,580 ..
Other F.M.S. consumers	...	...	84 ..
Exported	...	...	—
Consumed at the Collieries	...	...	993 ..
			<hr/>
			7,762 ..
			<hr/>

35. The demand and search for dredging land is keener than ever, principally in the Kinta and Klang river valleys. Fifty dredges were at work, 21 under construction and 41 proposed to be constructed. The depth at which dredging is now carried out increases, 85 feet having been accomplished and as much as 120 feet contemplated. Bucket dredging.

36. The popularity among the Chinese of gravel pumps is as great as ever, the number now used being 577. Gravel pumps.

37. Only one theft of ore, involving three pikuls, was reported during the year. Drastic action was taken under the Enactment, after due warning had been given, to deal with an outbreak of petty pilfering of ore from the Sungei Besi Mines. The action taken had the desired effect. Mineral Ores Enactment.

38. The floods in December did remarkably little damage to mines on the whole. Raub Gold Mines was rather badly flooded however and considerable damage was done to the Pahang Consolidated Company Limited's property by destruction of the railway, godowns, and the village buildings. Two small mines were flooded but the main workings escaped. Floods.

V.—FORESTRY.

Expansion.

39. The year 1926 will probably be looked back upon as one marking the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the Forest Department. The first stage in the scheme for the expansion of the department was approved in detail by the Secretary of State; the department entered into possession, and began the development of, the area allotted to it for experimental plantations and for the establishment of a research institute and vernacular forest school; sanction was accorded to the appointment of an additional Chemist to the Agricultural Department for chemical work in connection with forest products, and to the appointment of a Forest Engineer to give advice and draw up plans in connection with the departmental exploitation of a forest on modern lines and the establishment of an up-to-date sawmill; an experimental wood-preservation plant was ordered; and the purchase of up-to-date timber-testing equipment on the lines recommended by Mr. Kent in his report of 1925 was approved by the Finance Committee of the Federal Council.

Staff.

40. At the beginning of the year there were 29 officers on the senior staff of the Malayan Forest Service in addition to the Controller of Timber Supplies and the Timber Accountant. Two of these were on deputation in Johore and one in Kedah. Four Assistant Conservators and a Reconnaissance and Plantations Officer were appointed during the year, and at the end of the year another officer was under training at Oxford. One officer retired.

The strength of the locally-recruited English-speaking staff at the beginning of the year was 15, of whom one was on service in Johore and two and one were under training in Burma and India respectively; two probationers were confirmed in their appointments; and two other probationers began their training. One officer died.

The sanctioned strength of the subordinate forest staff was 478.

Reserves.

41. At the end of the year there were 5,340 square miles of reserved forest, and 937 square miles notified as proposed reserves. The declared policy of the Government to aim at making the country permanently self-supporting in timber, firewood and charcoal was subjected to some criticism in the Federal Council and the press, but the Government sees no reason to modify its decision.

42. Labour conditions continued exceedingly difficult and, Outturn.
 in spite of an increased outturn of timber, the demand for building material could not be supplied. The Committee which sat throughout the year to consider the question of the timber supply and other cognate matters made certain recommendations which it is hoped will lead not only to an increased output and cheapening of timber, but to the use of a wider number of timbers. Some of the most important of its recommendations, namely, the installation of wood-preservation and testing plant, and the appointment of a Forest Engineer, are already being acted on. Negotiations are also proceeding to introduce jungle workers from India with a view to the better exploitation of timber and minor forest produce, and to the carrying out of important silvicultural operations which have now to be neglected to the detriment of the forest. In this matter we have received and are still receiving most valuable and willing assistance and advice from officers of the Forest Department in Madras, the Chief Forest Engineer from that province, while on leave in the United States and Canada, at very considerable inconvenience to himself, having interviewed a number of candidates for the post of Forest Engineer.

The outturn of timber, fuel and charcoal on which payment was made was 877,137 tons compared with 844,605 tons in 1925. There was a large fall in the output of gutta-percha owing entirely to the want of suitable labour. The output of damar fell slightly in Negri Sembilan, but showed some improvement in Northern Perak. The hopes of an increased output as the result of the introduction of a system of bonuses were not fulfilled. In Negri Sembilan the trees are capable of giving occupation to a far larger number of tappers than are actually employed, but it seems difficult to attract the Malays. The cane and jelutong industries are disappointing and difficult. Federated Malay States Jelutong fetches better prices than the product of Borneo, but the tappers cannot be persuaded to comply with the tapping regulations. We cannot allow the trees to be destroyed, and a complete reorganization of the industry may be necessary. The chief difficulty is to keep supervision charges within reasonable limits, and this can be accomplished only by securing an adequate permanent labour force which will work a number of forest products simultaneously.

The department had a large exhibit of furniture at the Agri-Horticultural Show in Kuala Lumpur, as well as exhibits of wood-distillation products and veneers. A large quantity of fancy furniture was sold.

Research.

48. Useful chemical and other investigations, chiefly by Chemists of the Agricultural and Medical Departments, and by Mr. T. Hedley Barry of London, were made into *damar penak*, keruing oil, dragon's blood, jelutong, and certain medicinal plants. Of particular importance is the discovery of a coagulant and preservative for jelutong, which will be both simple in operation and will not infringe the pure food law of America. It is believed that a really satisfactory process has now been discovered.

Important additions have been made to the herbarium and wood collections, and a useful start has been made with a collection of microscopic slides and photo-micrographs of our commoner woods, begun by Capt. Woolley while on study leave at Oxford in 1925.

The Illustrated Manual of Commercial Timber Trees by Dr. Foxworthy was sent to the press, and good progress was made by Mr. Watson with his list of the vernacular and botanical names of trees. Valuable assistance has been received from Dr. van Slooten of Java in the study of the Dipterocarps.

A wood-distillation plant started operations at Kerambit in Pahang, and was just beginning to get its products on to the market when the railway was destroyed and the plant damaged by the severe floods at the end of the year. It is however hoped that the cessation of work will be only temporary.

In February a conference of forest officers was held, at which officers from India, Sumatra and Sarawak were present. The opening meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, Sir George Maxwell. A number of papers were read and discussed, and some important decisions were taken.

VI.—AGRICULTURE.

Staff.

44. The establishment of the Department of Agriculture, excluding the Secretary for Agriculture who is not a technical officer, comprises 36 European officers—26 on the Research Staff and Experimental Stations and 10 on the Field Staff, the latter including two officers in the Colony and one in Johore. Three field appointments were filled by temporary officers at the beginning of the year; of these one was taken on the permanent staff, one left at the end of the year and one remains. A Second Assistant Mycologist was appointed during the year. The substantive appointments of Assistant to Secretary for Agriculture, Second Assistant Economic Botanist and Second Assistant Entomologist were not filled during the year.

45. The price of rubber in Singapore opened at \$1.54 per lb. but declined steadily during the first two months and fell to 85 cents per lb. at the end of February. During March it rose temporarily to \$1.08 per lb. but subsequently declined till it reached 65 cents per lb. at the beginning of May. It subsequently remained steady between 65 and 75 cents per lb. till November when it fell to 60 cents per lb. At the close of the year it stood at 65 cents per lb.

Rubber.

46. The rubber exported from the Federated Malay States during 1926 was 160,213 tons, including 2,059,655 gallons (3,218 tons) of latex, as compared with 118,590 tons (including 2,292,282 gallons of latex) in the preceding year. The export in 1924 had been 94,731 tons.

Exports of rubber.

47. The Rubber (Restriction) Enactment remained in force throughout the year. At the beginning of 1926 the percentage of release was 85 per cent., which was raised to 100 per cent. for the restriction quarter which began on the 1st February, 1926. The restriction scheme, as hitherto constituted, had provided for increases not exceeding 10 per cent. for any one quarter. The 100 per cent. rate remained in force during the last three quarters of the restriction year.

"Restriction."

A further change in the restriction scheme was made during the year by the Secretary of State's announcement that if the average London price of rubber during the quarter should be less than 1s. 9d. per lb. the rate of release for the next quarter would be reduced to 80 per cent. As the average price for August-October quarter was below 1s. 9d. the percentage of release was reduced to 80 per cent. on the 1st November, 1926.

48. From the 1st May, 1926, the maximum of 500 lbs. per acre per annum governing the standard production of holdings of more than 25 acres in area was abolished, and it became possible for such a holding to obtain an assessment of any amount which it might be proved capable of producing; and at the same time the maximum assessment of holdings not exceeding 25 acres in area was raised from 320 to 400 lbs. per acre.

Standard production.

The "Standard Production" at the end of the fourth restriction year was 182,208 tons for the Federated Malay States. This is an increase of 22,334 tons over the "Standard Production" for the previous year.

49. *General Conditions.*—The average price realised during the year was sufficient to maintain all properties in good order and yield a fair profit to owners or shareholders. Many of the smaller holdings have improved in condition.

The first four months of the year were unusually hot and dry, causing an exceptionally thorough and simultaneous "wintering" (annual leaf-fall) of rubber throughout the country.

Disease.—This severe wintering naturally had the effect of reducing the output during the dry months but had a beneficial effect in checking bark diseases, especially "Mouldy Rot" (*Sphaeronema fimbriatum*). "Mouldy Rot" however became very prevalent again during the wet season in the last quarter of the year.

"Pink Disease" (*Corticium Salmonicolor*) was less in evidence than in former years. "Wet Rot" (*Fomes pseudo-ferreus*), a root disease of old rubber, was the subject of special investigations by the Mycologist who was able to devise a method of saving a considerable percentage of trees attacked, by excision of diseased roots, at an economic cost, except in cases where the infection was at an advanced stage.

"Dry Rot" (*Ustilina Zonata*) is often found associated with "Wet Rot" and may be controlled in a similar manner provided general sanitation work is given adequate attention.

50. *Rubber Research Work.*—Investigations by the Chemical Division included work on the variation in tensile strength of vulcanised rubber, further enquiries concerning the use of alum as a coagulant and investigations on preserved (ammoniated) latex with a view to standardising the method of extraction of "dry rubber" content.

The work on latex was continued by the Plant Physiologist and a waxy substance has been isolated which appears to account for some of the coagulation phenomena.

The Entomologist on one occasion found that the caterpillars of a mantriid moth had not only seriously damaged a cover crop (centrosema) on an estate but had also migrated thence to young rubber and fed on the leaves. The possibility of damage to rubber through pests on cover crops is easily exaggerated but should always be remembered and guarded against.

51. *Rubber Research Institute.*—The Director (Dr. G. Bryce) was appointed and assumed duty on 26th September, 1926.

The Institute was officially opened on the 1st November, 1926, although the laboratories are not yet properly equipped and only a few members of the staff were appointed before the end of the year.

The Rubber Research Institute should serve the needs of all classes of rubber growers in Malaya. It will relieve the Department of Agriculture of most of the work connected with rubber except the work of control of diseases, and enable the department to devote more time and attention to investigations on the other major crops, rice, coconuts and oil palms, to the improvement of minor crops, vegetables, fruit trees and stock and to experiments with plants likely to provide suitable new crops for Malaya.

52. At the beginning of January the Singapore price of copra was \$12 per pikul. During the year it varied between \$12.30 and \$10.10 to which price it had declined at the end of December. The average price was about \$11.80 as compared with \$12.15 in 1925. Coconuts.

The industry has continued in the same satisfactory condition as in the last four years.

Experimental Investigation.—Records of yields from individual palms which have been maintained for six years on an estate show the value of selection work on the crop. Palms selected as high yielders continue to demonstrate this character convincingly.

The experimental area under the department near Klang has been kept in good condition.

Diseases and Pests.—The Black Coconut Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) still gives trouble and requires continual attention. The most important feature of the year was however a further outbreak of the new disease which is now known as the Salmon Pink Disease. The Mycologist continued his investigations of infected palms from various parts of the Peninsula and thus found certain fungi definitely associated with the somewhat variable symptoms recorded.

Further work is being continued for the full elucidation of the cause and development of this disease or combination of diseases.

53. Owing to comparatively poor crops in Kedah and elsewhere the local price of padi has been well above the average. The crop in Krian was only 2 per cent. below the average of the last twelve years in spite of severe floods in November, 1925, and virulent attacks by a fulgorid insect which appeared in enormous numbers in Krian and Larut but disappeared as quickly as it came. Padi.

It is satisfactory to note that selected strains of padi from the Experimental Station showed much greater resistance to this pest than unselected strains.

Crops generally were much below the average in the large producing areas outside Krian—considerable areas were completely ruined by floods towards the end of the year along the Perak river, in Temerloh (Pahang) and in South Selangor.

Ten thousand gantangs of selected seed padi were distributed from the Experimental Station at Titi Serong for the needs of the 1926-1927 season. In addition to Titi Serong, which was well maintained, other Test Stations at Talang (near Kuala Kangsar) and Dong (Raub) gave satisfactory crops and supplied considerable amounts of selected seed to local growers.

New Test Stations were established at Bota (Perak) and Kajang (Selangor) during the year.

The 1926-1927 harvest will be only about 70 per cent. of the normal owing to the disastrous floods at the new year which completely wiped out all crops near the Perak and Pahang rivers.

An average crop had been expected from Krian but it is now thought that it will only be about 13 million gantangs against an average of 14 millions. In some parts of the country the steady rain for some days after Christmas, 1926, saved the crop which would otherwise have failed owing to the previous long spell of dry weather.

The special rat destruction campaign was continued in Krian throughout 1926, as a result of which over 673,000 rats were accounted for against 657,000 in the previous year.

While these results have greatly reduced the damage caused by this pest, there seems no hope of exterminating them, and it will be necessary therefore to continue the work, so long as the cost seems justified by the damage prevented.

Other crops.

54. *Oil Palm*.—Interest in oil palm cultivation has been well maintained, the area alienated for this cultivation being over 30,000 acres, of which over 10,000 acres are actually planted. Three estates have reached the bearing stage, two being equipped with modern machinery for the preparation of a high class oil. The yields for 1926 were 751 tons of palm-oil and 168 tons of kernels.

Further areas of over 100,000 acres in extent, chiefly in Pahang, are provisionally reserved for this cultivation, but it is not yet known if all will prove suitable for the purpose.

The Department of Agriculture is experimenting at Serdang with new varieties of oil palm from West Africa with a view to selecting improved strains of seed for distribution to planters in this country.

Recent improvements in machinery for the extraction of the oil and for cracking the kernels should stimulate this promising industry.

Prices reached for local palm-oil continue to be in advance of those reached by the West African product.

It is of interest to note that during the year under report the Government of the Gold Coast and Nigeria each sent an expert to study the plantation industry here and in the Netherlands East Indies.

Pineapples.—The importance of pineapple cultivation in Malaya was emphasised in the report of the Imperial Economic Committee.

The principal areas under cultivation and factories are in Johore, the only factory in the Federated Malay States being at Klang.

The Chinese producers are now making efforts to improve the grading of the local product, which by its cheapness is much in demand in the United Kingdom.

Nipah.—The possibilities of nipah palm estates as a future source of power alcohol have recently attracted some notice.

There are two existing estates in Selangor with a planted area of over 900 acres varying in age from a year to nearly four years. The growth is reported to be excellent and the older palms are already fruiting. The department has records of yields taken over a period of two years from some palms eight to nine years old growing in conditions less favourable than those on estates.

These records show that very high yields of 1,000 gallons of alcohol per acre per annum are quite probable and if such difficulties as maintaining a large enough tapping force and finding a stable and satisfactory market can be overcome the prospects would appear to be very bright.

Areca Nuts.—A special investigation into the varieties and grades of this product was made by officers of the department and the results published. This appears to be a crop which would justify expansion under plantation conditions.

Tuba Root (Derris spp.).—The position of tuba on the world's market was studied. The efforts of the Department of Agriculture have resulted in various insecticide manufacturers carrying out experiments regarding the economic use of this product.

Gambier.—A study was made of the tannin content of commercial samples of gambier as compared with the ruling prices of the same samples. The conclusions point to the fact that prices and quality were not necessarily comparable. The relationship of production and markets also received consideration. An account of this work was published in detail.

Government Experiment Station.—Among other minor crops which received special attention at the department Experiment Station at Serdang was Sisal Hemp (*Agave rigida* var *sisalana*) a commercial sample of some three tons sent to England being very well reported on.

An interesting experiment from a medical point of view is being made with *Hydnocarpus*, the seeds of which yield chaulmoogra oil, of special value in the treatment of leprosy. Some trees at Serdang seeded for the first time in 1926 and a special report on them was sent to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Experiments with tapioca were continued and the results obtained have enabled the department to recommend that the prohibition on this cultivation be removed, as, under proper conditions, it may be a very useful catch crop in connection with permanent cultivation such as rubber, provided only two crops are taken without manuring.

The Government Rubber Estate at Telok Anson (Castlefield Estate) being no longer required for experimental purposes was sold in February, 1926, realising the good price of \$210,000 or \$1,066 an acre.

Good work was done on the experimental area at Cameron's Highlands, where tea and cinchona are being cultivated, some 80 acres being opened and part of it successfully planted.

55. The Malayan Agri-Horticultural Association held a successful four days Exhibition at Kuala Lumpur from August 27th-30th. Under the auspices of this Association District Shows were also held at seven centres in the Federated Malay States.

56. The report was received of a Committee appointed to consider proposals for the establishment of a School of Agriculture. The proposals are receiving the consideration of Government. School of Agriculture.

57. The Department of Agriculture continued to publish its monthly *Malayan Agricultural Journal* in addition to a special bulletin on "Food Plants of Some Malayan Insects". A quarterly agricultural journal in Malay was also published regularly, and arrangements made to issue a similar publication in Chinese early in 1927. Publications.

VII.—LEGISLATION.

58. Thirty-one Enactments were passed during the year, of which nineteen were amending Enactments and six codifications and re-enactments. The more important amending Enactments were the Probate and Administration Amendment, which was an attempt to deal with the vexed and difficult question of succession on the death of the owner of land held by entry in the mukim register, Registration of Schools Amendment, whereby the control of the Director of Education was strengthened, Planters Loans Fund Amendment, which authorised the loan of money from the fund for purposes other than agricultural, Courts Amendment, which gave the Court of Appeal power to enhance an inadequate sentence passed by a Judge and also provided for a judicial vacation, and Rubber Restriction Amendment, which incorporated the Secretary of State's directions as to the limitation of the term of export rights.

The laws with regard to Agricultural Pests, Water Supply, Second-hand Dealers and Lepers were codified and re-enacted with considerable expansion in the two last cases.

The most important Enactments passed during the year were the Criminal Procedure Code, the Land Code and the Health Boards Enactment, each of which deserves special mention.

The first of these re-enacts as a Federal Enactment the State Criminal Procedure Codes dating from 1902. The new Code has been assimilated in a greater degree to the Code in force in the Colony. The system of trial with the aid of assessors in capital cases has been retained but provision has been made whereby trial by jury may be substituted for this in any State. The Code has been considerably expanded, partly by the inclusion of material taken from the Straits Settlements Code and partly by the inclusion of provisions, e.g., police supervision, formerly contained in separate Enactments.

The Land Code represents the result of several years labour. It is a re-enactment of the law formerly contained in the Land Enactment and the Registration of Titles Enactment. The combination of these in one Code has been rendered possible by the abolition of the remaining differences in the tenure of land held under grant and land held by entry in the mukim register. An attempt has been made in the Code to define more clearly the rights of proprietors and the conditions on which they hold their land, the rights of the State, and the principles and practice of registration.

The Health Boards Enactment is a rather bold piece of experimental legislation. It provides for local Health Boards and empowers them to frame schemes to deal with unhealthy areas, with hospital accommodation and health visiting. A Central Board may approve and direct the carrying out of schemes and for this purpose will be provided with funds to be raised by a cess on the areas affected and a grant in respect of State land within such areas. The Controller of Labour is Chairman of the Central Board, but the membership is almost entirely non-official.

The Former Enemy Aliens (Disabilities Removal) Enactment marks a stage towards the return of normal conditions, and is based on the English Act for the same purpose.

The remaining Enactments passed do not call for special remark.

VIII.—POLICE.

Police. 59. The approved strength of the Force on the 31st December, 1926, was 4,113 officers and men distributed in 178 police stations and 15 posts.

New posts were established at Pedas and Khota in Negri Sembilan. The Force was 99 under strength at the end of the year; of this shortage 77 were Malay and Indian rank and file. Of the 40 Gazetted Officers 5 are Malays, and of the 82 Superior Officers 29 are Malays and other Asiatics.

The standard of training at the Police Depot both in drill and police duties was maintained and in some respects improved during the year. A miniature rifle range was established which promises to be a valuable adjunct to the Depot facilities.

Difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable Malay recruits, but this was got over by reducing the standard somewhat and paying a small bonus per head for recruits brought in for enlistment. A new feature introduced during the year was the establishment of a police camp at Port Dickson which

helped to relieve the serious congestion at the Dépôt and made a much appreciated break in the Dépôt routine for well-behaved recruits.

The Force has from time to time for some years past furnished officers for the Customs Department, Rubber Restriction, the Railway Department, and the Police Force of the Unfederated Malay States, and as these were all selected men the Force is now feeling the drain, especially as the chief former source of supply of Inspectors, the Royal Irish Constabulary, is no longer in existence.

60. The state of crime shows a very gratifying decrease. Crime.
The total number of seizable offences reported in 1926 was 5,642 as against 7,361 in 1925 and an average of 9,363 for the preceding five years.

Gang-robberies numbered 16 as against 18 in 1925, and robberies 40 as against 59 in 1925. These are the lowest figures on record for at least thirty years and when the increase of population is taken into account the present incidence of serious crime is very much below what it has been previously.

The scope of the Criminal Intelligence Branch was enlarged considerably during the year. Reduced pressure due to the general improvement in the state of crime permitted of more attention being given to the habitual or professional thief: the majority of the reported cases of theft and house-breaking with corresponding loss of property may be attributed to the activities of this type of criminal. There is an increasing number of such persons who may not be banished, an inevitable outcome of the changing status of the population, and it is primarily with the object of curbing this element that the Criminal Intelligence Branch is now occupied with a system of classifying and indexing crime and criminals by means of description and *modus operandi*. The initial progress made gives good ground for hope that the system will prove effective not only in providing better preventive and detective measures but, by leading to closer co-ordination of investigation work generally, in releasing more officers and men for other pressing duties such as the control of traffic which is expanding so rapidly.

An improvement has also been effected in the system of keeping in touch with police supervisees, but though supervision is being tightened, care is being exercised that supervisees and registered criminals who show an inclination to earn a living honestly are not interfered with in any way or brought under the notice of their neighbours.

The Criminal Registry was maintained at a high state of efficiency, and a total of 19,756 finger-prints inquiries in respect of current crime were dealt with expeditiously.

The finger-prints of 1,408 persons who had died by sudden or suspicious deaths were submitted during the year for identification and 101 identifications were established in this manner.

Fires.

61. There were 307 outbreaks of fires, in only 12 of which was the damage stated to exceed \$10,000.

IX.—PRISONS.

62. There are six prisons. On the 1st January, 1926, there were 1,001 prisoners against 1,194 on the 1st January, 1925; during the year 4,506 were admitted; and 944 remained at the close of the year. The daily average figures were: Civil Prison, 106; short-sentence and revenue grade, 434; long-sentence and condemned, 465. Five executions were carried out. Three prisoners escaped. One prisoner committed suicide. The daily average of sick was 1.51 per cent. as compared with 2.19 in 1926. There were 15 deaths, of which 2 were from malaria, 1 from phthisis, 1 from pneumonia and 11 from other causes of which debility may be presumed to be the cause or predisposing factor.

63. The total expenditure of the prisons totalled \$455,207. The daily average of 1,005 prisoners was maintained at a nett cost of \$398,246 (the prison revenue being deducted), giving an annual cost per head of \$396. The annual cost in 1925 had been \$335 and in 1924 \$307. The reason for the increase of \$61 over the figure for 1925 was principally due to the decrease in the daily average.

X.—MEDICAL.

VITAL STATISTICS.

64. Births and deaths figures are obtained from notifications compulsory under the Registration of Births and Deaths Enactment which is everywhere in force.

Deaths in towns are debited against the town only if the deceased was resident there for three months or more previous to death.

Because of the peculiar age and sex distribution, and the fact that the labour of this country is largely made up of persons aged 20-45, who passed the doctor before embarking for Malaya, the death figures cannot be compared with countries where the labour is indigenous and where age and sex distribution are normal.

65. The population of the Federated Malay States as **Population.** estimated was at the end of June, 1926, 1,476,032 distributed as follows :

Perak	...	...	...	...	654,179
Selangor	...	...	...	...	457,170
Negri Sembilan	...	...	...	...	204,257
Pahang	...	...	...	...	160,426

Assuming that the races remain in the same proportion as in the Census year, the race distribution is as follows :

Europeans and Americans.	Eurasians.	Malays and other natives of the Archipelago.	Chinese.	Indians.	Others.
6,947	3,495	558,060	526,733	374,915	5,882

66. Owing to the unprecedented severity of the floods which occurred and which were particularly severe in Pahang resulting in the complete destruction of the records of the Registrar of Births and Deaths in that State, the figures given for births and deaths are for the States of Perak, Selangor and Negri Sembilan only.

67. The number of births registered was 39,834 for the **Births.** whole year, giving a rate of 30.28 (excluding Pahang) per mille of population as against a birth-rate of 28.89 per mille for 1925.

68. Thirty-eight thousand four hundred and forty-five **Deaths.** deaths were registered, giving a death-rate of 29.22 (excluding Pahang) per mille. The number of deaths in 1925 was 34,153 and the rate was 23.60 for the whole Federated Malay States.

It is probable that the introduction of more female Tamil labourers bringing with them children of poor physique, and malaria, dysentery and diarrhoea following the heavy rains and floods account for the increase.

INFANT MORTALITY.

69. The number of deaths of children under one year was 7,718 or an infantile mortality rate per thousand births of 193.75 against a mortality rate of 177.17 in 1925. This death-rate which, it is hoped, will be reduced in the course of time, compares favourably with those of other tropical countries.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Malaria.

70. There were 38,633 cases of malaria treated in hospitals with 1,792 deaths and a death-rate of 4.64 as compared with 23,056 cases with 993 deaths and a death-rate of 4.03 for the year 1925.

Exceptionally heavy rains at the end of 1925 followed by a prolonged drought, and the increased amount of clearing jungle land which followed the rise in the price of rubber may have been important contributing factors.

During the year the anti-malaria measures were in no way relaxed and the distribution of quinine was carried out as usual.

Tablets of quinine to the number of 1,043,200 were issued to the various Health Officers for ultimate free distribution to the public through the Police, the Education Department and the District Officers, also to the Senior Medical Officers for distribution through the various travelling dispensaries.

Lectures, lantern demonstrations, and anti-malaria propaganda were vigorously carried out by the Public Health Education Committee.

General
European
population.

71. The general health of the European population continues to be good. There was little sickness and invaliding. The total European and American population as estimated at the end of June, 1926, was 6,947. There were 131 births, giving a birth-rate of 19.86 per mille and 36 deaths with a death-rate of 5.46 per mille as compared with a birth-rate of 20.72 per mille and a death-rate of 4.03 per mille in the previous year.

It is necessary to remark upon the increasing number of cases of neurasthenia, Europeans of both sexes being affected.

Pulmonary
tuberculosis.

72. The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis treated in hospitals during the year under review was 2,329 with 995 deaths and a death-rate of 42.72 per mille as compared with 2,571 cases with 1,051 deaths and a death-rate of 40.88 per mille for the year 1925.

Extensive propaganda in the form of pamphlets was continued by the Public Health Education Committee.

There is no doubt that influenza leaves Asiatics very liable to infection by the tubercle bacillus and as influenza is more common than formerly, tubercle bacillus infections are on the increase. The floods with the exposure and privations were responsible to some extent for the increased death-rate and number of cases. Overcrowding in the towns is also a factor.

The Government Asiatic Staff are all periodically examined for symptoms of pulmonary or other tubercular infection.

73. The treatment of yaws by arsenical compounds was Yaws. continued. A total number of 30,233 injections were given during the period under review. The number of cases treated in each State in comparison with the number treated in 1923, 1924 and 1925 is shown in the following table :

States.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Perak	14,149	9,884	9,155	9,358
Selangor	4,381	2,231	1,305	1,680
Negri Sembilan	9,358	7,267	6,426	4,543
Pahang	3,247	3,997	9,403	7,893
<hr/>				
Total	31,135	23,379	26,289	23,474
<hr/>				

The difficulty experienced in persuading patients, who are mostly Malays, to continue injections is still very great, but by making facilities for injections as easy as possible, it is hoped that yaws will be eventually eradicated. Serious cases so common a few years ago are rarely seen and the milder cases are becoming less frequent.

74. There were 480 fresh admissions and 66 deaths from Leprosy. leprosy during the year.

75. There were no epidemics during the year, except one Infectious diseases. small outbreak of cholera and some cases of measles.

76. There has been no outbreak of smallpox during the Vaccination. year under review, and vaccination work was mostly confined to children. The number of vaccinations performed was 113,914 as compared with 126,305 for the corresponding period of last year.

77. Sixty cases of tropical typhus were diagnosed at the Typhus fever. Institute for Medical Research during the year.

78. A small outbreak of cholera occurred in the Kuala Cholera. Langat district of Selangor, there being 13 cases and 6 deaths. A possible cause of infection was from one of a family who had arrived from India two months previously on an infected ship. These coolies had been inmates of the non-infectious hospital of the quarantine camp. It is possible that a member of this family was an intermittent carrier.

Beri-beri.

79. The number of cases treated for beri-beri was 1,075 with 140 deaths and a death-rate of 13.02 as compared with 906 with 98 deaths and a death-rate of 10.81 for the corresponding period of 1925.

Very active propaganda work in the form of pamphlets and advertisements in the vernacular press, warning the public of the danger of using polished rice, were issued by the Committee for Public Health Education.

Venereal diseases.

80. The total number of cases treated during the year was 4,428 with 51 deaths and a death-rate of 1.15 per cent. as compared with 3,688 cases with 91 deaths and a death-rate of 2.46 for the previous year.

The campaign against venereal diseases continues with marked success. Persons of all nationalities seek advice and treatment at the clinics, which are being increased in number.

INFANT WELFARE WORK.

81. Infant welfare work continues with great success and the attendance at the clinics have greatly increased. The numbers attending clinics in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Taiping and Seremban for 1925 and 1926 were as follows :

Place.	1925.	1926.
Kuala Lumpur	23,134	29,831
Ipoh	15,523	14,080
Taiping	18,259	13,559
Seremban (opened in August, 1926)	—	3,895
Total ...	56,916	61,365

It is interesting to note the change that has taken place in the attitude of the parents towards the aim and object of the centres. They were originally full of fears and prejudices and attended only after much persuasion and in a very hesitating manner; they vouchsafed no signs of approval or otherwise at the instructions given them and appeared completely mystified and far from happy. To-day on visiting the centre one can see for oneself that these same people are now thoroughly at home and have lost their fears, their attendance weekly is regular and they bring not only their own babies but persuade their neighbours to do the same.

District visiting is being carried out as much as possible. It is recognised as the most important part of child welfare service and the work done in this direction has been exceptionally good through the year.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

82. The inspection of schools is still being carried out by both Medical and Health Branches of the department. Frequent visits are being paid to the schools near the main roads by the travelling dispensaries. All schools are supplied with a stock of quinine tablets.

83. The work under the Labour Code was satisfactory in view of the number of staff. Of 1,450 estates, 725 were visited by Health Officers and of 156 estate hospitals, 154 were visited. Estate labour.

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION.

84. The Public Health Education Committee met on several occasions during the year; at Horticultural Shows exhibitions were put up which were well attended, lectures were given and pamphlets which had been prepared by the Committee were distributed in large numbers in various languages.

Popular lectures on malaria were given in Malay and Chinese in various parts of the country, these were illustrated by lantern slides and were well attended.

A cinematograph film of the work done at the Infant Welfare Centre, Kuala Lumpur, was also exhibited on several occasions to large and interested audiences.

Lectures on venereal diseases, illustrated by lantern slides, were given in Chinese, Tamil and other clubs and institutions.

QUARANTINE AND PORT HEALTH WORK.

85. A very marked increase of immigrants, 99,066 for 1926 compared with 48,748 for 1925, taxed the accommodation at Port Swettenham Quarantine Camp somewhat severely, especially in view of the fact that several successive steamers arrived infected with cholera; the situation was satisfactorily dealt with by the Quarantine Camp staff.

During the year 75 ships with immigrant labourers were boarded and inspected. The labourers were landed at the Quarantine Camp. Of the 75 ships, 21 were infected—eight with cholera, two with cholera and smallpox, four with smallpox, one with cerebro-spinal meningitis, one with cholera and cerebro-spinal meningitis, five with chicken-pox.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

86. There were on the 31st December, 1926, in the Federated Malay States, the following medical institutions :

- 4 European Hospitals;
- 35 District Hospitals (each with an Outdoor Dispensary);
- 3 Women's Hospitals;
- 3 Leper Asylums;
- 6 Gaol Hospitals;
- 1 Quarantine Camp;
- 4 Vagrant or Decrepit Wards;
- 1 Mental Hospital;
- 1 Pasteur Institute (attached to the Institute of Medical Research);
- 29 Dispensaries working in towns, distinct from hospitals;
- 4 Infant Welfare Centres;
- 4 Venereal Diseases Clinics.

The number of in-patients treated during the year was 127,332 with 9,178 deaths and a death-rate of 7.21 per mille as against 103,762 with 6,964 deaths and a death-rate of 6.71 in the preceding year. Outdoor patients numbered 630,052 as against 621,793 in 1925.

Of the total of 630,052 cases 156,652 were treated by the travelling dispensaries and 16,817 by dispensary boats on the Pahang River. In Selangor a system of house to house visits was inaugurated. The travelling dispensaries staff visited Malay kampongs which were some distance off the road and whose inhabitants would not trouble to attend at the usual stopping places of the travelling dispensary. 460 patients out of a population of 3,416 were treated by these means. It is intended to extend this system as more senior Malay dressers become available.

In 1927 a number of new and improved type of larger travelling dispensaries are to be supplied.

The motor boats dispensaries are under construction, one for the Perak River and one for the Pahang River. The former has now, at the time of writing, been supplied and it promises to be a great success. They will be of immense value to the Malay riverine population.

Mental diseases.

87. There were at the end of 1926, 1,212 male and 338 female patients at the Central Mental Hospital.

The total admissions during the year was 735, an increase of 69 on last year, while the discharges numbered 360, of whom 207 were discharged recovered and 76 relieved.

The Medical Superintendent comments on the danger of alcohol taking the place of opium amongst the Chinese.

88. The Pasteur Institute has been a success : 183 persons were given anti-rabic treatment in Kuala Lumpur. A branch treatment centre was opened in Malacca, the material being supplied from Kuala Lumpur. Pasteur Institute.

Prophylactic inoculation of dogs against rabies were successfully carried out.

XI.—EDUCATION.

89. The expenditure upon Education (including \$733,286 spent by the Public Works Department on the building and upkeep of schools) was \$3,215,528. Of this sum, \$440,749 was paid in grants to English aided schools and \$47,868 in grants to Chinese vernacular schools. Financial.

The total revenue, derived mainly from school-fees, was \$123,244.

90. The salaries of the Educational Service now compare favourably with any in the Empire and have attracted an excellent type of recruit. In the future the extension of the European staff will be due largely to recruitment of experts for special subjects. Staff.

A revision was made in the salaries of untrained Malay teachers, who have generally done excellent work.

91. At present the highest local educational institution open to students from the Federated Malay States is King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore. Higher education.

The building of Raffles College, which will provide a higher education in subjects other than medicine, made satisfactory progress, and it is expected that the College will open in 1928.

The Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, receives probationers for the Government service.

92. Evening classes were held in all the States. In Perak and Negri Sembilan the only classes in demand were those for elementary English. In Kuala Lumpur the curriculum comprised English, shorthand, book-keeping, typewriting, Evening classes.

machine drawing, magnetism and electricity, electrical engineering, workshop mechanics, surveying, engineering and art. Of the students who joined these Kuala Lumpur classes, a large percentage consisted of apprentices in Government workshops. In Pahang there were classes in English, arithmetic and typewriting.

There were Normal Classes for teachers in all the States except Pahang, where correspondence classes had to take their place.

Scholarships
and free
education.

93. Of the 14,755 pupils in English schools, 373 held Government scholarships, enjoying free education, board and lodging; 87 held other scholarships; 2,977 received free education from the Government and 316 free education from other sources. Thus, 3,753, or 25.44 per cent., receive a free education.

All pupils in Malay vernacular schools enjoy free education.

English
schools.

94. There were 22 English Government schools for boys, 13 English grant-in-aid schools and 11 for girls. The total average enrolment was 5,702, 6,107 and 2,946 respectively.

Malay College,
Kuala Kangsar.

95. The expenditure on the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, was \$94,668. At the end of the year there were 117 students, all boarders educated and maintained entirely at Government expense.

Two boys died during the year. The general health of the boys was satisfactory.

A new swimming pool was opened during the year.

Cricket, hockey and association football are played regularly.

Cadets and Scouts went into camp in September, a first and most successful experiment.

During the December floods the ground floor of the College was flooded to a depth of 18 inches. The Sultan of Perak sheltered the students at one of his palaces while the College was filled with local refugees.

Sultan Idris
Training
College.

96. At the beginning of the year there were 275 students and two probationers in residence at the Sultan Idris Training College for the training of Malay vernacular teachers. After the fasting month 72 students and one probationer completed their course and left and 127 new students and one probationer joined.

The total expenditure was \$129,463, defrayed two-thirds by the Federated Malay States and one-third by the Government of the Straits Settlements.

The curriculum comprises the Malay language and literature, Malay history, geography, the theory and practice of teaching, physical training, rural science and handiwork. A few students learnt music.

The educative value of a cinema installed at this College was reflected in students' essays.

The College provides two platoons for the Malayan Volunteer Infantry.

97. The Malay vernacular schools are all Government institutions and provide free education. There are 401 schools for boys and 67 for girls with average enrolments of 27,026 and 3,235. The Malay teaching staff numbers 1,272.

Malay
vernacular
education.

The modern teacher is taking a keen interest in school gardens and rural science generally, while his knowledge of his own language and history, arithmetic and geography is more scientific than formerly. The work done by the Malay vernacular schools is extremely valuable and fulfils the needs of the Malay villager.

98. There are 259 Tamil vernacular schools with an average enrolment of 8,944. Many estates built and equipped new schools. Men with teaching experience were engaged to replace coolies and kanganies who had combined teaching with other duties.

Tamil
vernacular
education.

During the year arrangements were made for a European officer with a knowledge of Tamil to report on these schools.

99. Three hundred and forty-nine Chinese schools were registered with 722 teachers and 16,882 pupils.

Chinese
vernacular
education.

Grants to a total of \$47,868 were paid to 47 schools with 4,654 pupils.

With the exception of one middle school for boys in Ipoh all registered schools were primary. The standard of sanitation in all schools has greatly improved.

An Evening Training Class for Chinese teachers was held in Kuala Lumpur. There were 38 students in three classes, each having 15 hours a week. A library of classical and modern Chinese literature is being formed.

XII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

- Postal.** 100. There are now 101 post offices and 57 places at which postal business is transacted by railway station masters and others. The estimated number of articles posted and delivered was over 30 millions.
- Money orders.** 101. Money orders numbering 322,267 were issued and paid, the total amount representing \$22,603,346, an increase of 40,548 in number and \$3,886,353 in amount. Telegraph money orders numbering 11,474 for \$969,459 were issued and paid.
- Savings Bank.** 102. The number of Savings Bank depositors on the 31st December was 29,803, an increase of 4,179 during the year. The average amount standing to the credit of depositors decreased from \$122 to \$121. The excess of deposits over withdrawals during the year was \$400,751. It is satisfactory to record that the number of Malay depositors increased further from 5,238 to 6,219.
- Telegraphs.** 103. The number of telegrams despatched and delivered was 975,038, an increase of 110,008 or nearly 13 per cent.
- Telephones.** 104. The total number of subscribers connected to the telephone exchanges at the end of the year was 3,450, a further unprecedented increase of 623. There were also 1,598 extension lines, extension bells and private lines, etc., maintained, an increase of 197. On 31st December there were 2,618 miles of telegraph and telephone lines and 19,861 miles of overhead wires, of which 16,872 were telephone wires. In addition there were 79 miles of underground cable, the length of the single line in the cable being 7,774 miles. These figures do not include railway wires and Federated Malay States Government wires in Johore, Kedah and Dindings. Five additional public telephone exchanges were opened during the year at Bidor, Kuala Lipis, Parit, Rasa and Rembau respectively. Many new trunk lines were established to connect these exchanges with the system and to meet increased traffic. The trunk telephone revenue was \$277,253 or over 30 per cent. greater than in 1925 and 84 per cent. greater than in 1924. The general telephone revenue was \$904,513, an increase of 30 per cent. on the figures for 1925. The resources of the department were again taxed to the utmost to meet the urgent demands for telephone service. The number of telephone calls originated was estimated at 11,400,000, including 1,410,000 junction and trunk calls.
- Malayan Trunk Telephone Scheme.** 105. Reports and estimates in connection with the Malayan Trunk Telephone (Cable) Scheme were received from the Consulting Engineers and the British Post Office towards

the end of the year. The estimates are considerably in excess of the original estimate and the scheme is still under consideration.

106. The nett revenue collected by the department was \$2,522,461, an increase of \$475,767. Annually recurrent expenditure amounted to \$1,847,339 and special expenditure (including loan account) to \$633,486. The value of the services performed free of charge for other Government departments, estimated at \$183,325, is not included in these figures, which also exclude temporary and acting allowances amounting to \$171,625. Financial.

107. The co-ordination of the post and telegraph services of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States was approved and took effect on the 1st day of October. The Secretary for Postal Affairs resides in Kuala Lumpur and the Settlements and States are divided into five postal districts each in charge of a Controller. Co-ordination of
S.S. and F.M.S.
Postal Services.

108. Forty-nine temporary licences for the use of wireless receiving apparatus were issued during the year and one experimental transmitting licence. The British official news broadcast from the British wireless station near Rugby re-transmitted from Penang by land line and supplied to the local newspapers on payment of a small monthly fee averaged roughly 20,000 words a month. Wireless.

109. The floods at the end of December seriously dislocated the postal and telegraph services, particularly in Pahang. Floods.

XIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

110. The total expenditure authorised for the year was \$26,705,910, of which \$16,273,282 was spent, being an increase of \$4,167,764 or 34 per cent. above the previous year. This expenditure has only once been exceeded and that was in the boom year of 1921 (\$19,644,908) when the prices of materials were very much higher than during the year under review. General
expenditure.

The cost of administration (\$1,695,162) represents 10.42 per cent. of the total expenditure as against 12.95 per cent. in 1925. The expenditure under Annually Recurrent amounted to \$5,100,651: the unexpended balance was \$603,437.

111. The annual maintenance of Works and Buildings cost \$1,109,493, which represents 2.86 per cent. of the total cost of the buildings, as against 2.6 per cent. in the previous year. Buildings.

Five hundred and fifty-four new buildings were erected. The total number of buildings maintained was ten thousand three hundred and fifty-six, the value of which is \$38,799,666. Quarters for twenty-four senior officers and one hundred and seventy-two subordinates were completed. Good progress was made on the construction of the New Electric Power Station, Bungsar Road, Kuala Lumpur. With the exception of the water circulating system, all structural building work was completed. The expenditure was \$240,115, which does not include electrical machinery and plant. The Supreme Court, Ipoh, was commenced during the year and good progress was made. Satisfactory progress was made on the construction of the English schools at Seremban and Kuala Kangsar.

Roads.

112. There are 2,565 miles of metalled roads, 160 miles of unmetalled roads and 1,950 miles of bridle-paths. The average cost per mile of maintaining all metalled roads was \$1,430 as against \$1,308 in 1925. The total expenditure on maintaining roads, streets and bridges was \$3,674,911. The total mileage of roads treated with bituminous compounds is 697, of which 186 miles were added during the year.

The year under review has been marked by active operations in repairing the flood damage caused in November, 1925. At the end of the year the country was again visited by floods of unprecedented magnitude, which caused widespread damage to roads in all four States. The approximate estimate of repairing this damage is \$2,500,000.

In all districts road improvements, including widening, straightening and raising were carried out.

Rivers.

113. River channels of a length of 606 miles were maintained at a cost of \$230,110. The end of the year was characterised by heavy rain storms throughout the Peninsula. Phenomenal floods occurred on all large rivers, notably the Perak and Pahang Rivers. Some phenomenal falls of rain were recorded in the local Press. Measured rainfalls were very irregular. At Kuantan $77\frac{1}{4}$ inches were recorded during December, with a maximum of 20 inches in one day. The Perak River at Kuala Kangsar rose to a height of six feet above the famous 1897 flood. The flood discharge by this river is estimated to be over 200,000 cubic feet per second. At Kuala Lumpur the town was again inundated. The discharge of the Klang River was practically the same as in 1925, being 8,000 cubic feet per second. The flood discharge of the Kinta at Ipoh was 5,300 cubic feet per second against 6,000 in 1925.

In Pahang phenomenal floods were experienced. Both roads and railways were inundated for great lengths and telegraph and telephone communications interrupted. At Kuala Lipis, the river rose to a height of 64 feet above normal level. The lower street of shop-houses in Kuala Lipis was completely submerged. Several Government bungalows were carried away, stores were flooded and records lost. Land slips were frequent, the largest slip probably occurred at Sungei Lepar, where an area of jungle, estimated at 3,000 acres, slid into the valley, blocking the river and flooding several miles of the Benta-Kuantan road.

114. The capital cost of all waterworks is \$9,643,810; the cost of maintenance for the year was \$191,196 and the revenue collected amounted to \$551,713. Waterworks.

115. A sum of \$240,000 was provided under Loan Account for the development of Fraser's Hill, the expenditure being \$228,557: the sum spent on maintenance was \$73,917 out of a provision of \$95,160. Fraser's Hill.

116. The development of Cameron's Highlands as a hill station has definitely been decided on by Government. A provision of \$252,817 was made for the construction of the road, the expenditure being \$250,150. Cameron's Highlands.

117. The provision under the loan programme of works for the year was \$17,152,851, the expenditure being \$7,967,478. Loan Account.

118. Tenders generally have exceeded estimates for building and in many cases the exorbitant prices quoted are no doubt due to general attempts at profiteering, which may be attributed to the prosperous conditions at present obtaining in the country and to the fact that there is ample work for every one. Tenders.

119. The shortage of trained subordinates is still acute. An officer, sent specially to India for the purpose of recruiting, was successful in obtaining 36 Technical Subordinates, but these men will take some time to become conversant with local conditions and more are still required. Subordinates.

XIV.—RAILWAYS.

120. The receipts from all sources were \$21,640,545, an increase of 15.46 per cent., whilst expenditure chargeable to revenue on all accounts amounted to \$15,213,100, an increase of 8.87 per cent. The nett receipts for the year's working therefore amounted to \$6,427,445 compared with \$4,770,316 in 1925. This represented 3.13 per cent. on the capital expenditure against 2.39 per cent. last year. Working.

Railway rates.

121. A revised Tariff Book was brought into force in January, 1926. In this the number of classes of rates provided was increased from 9 to 19, thereby giving elasticity in charging the various grades of commodities offered for conveyance.

Train control.

122. A system of train control introduced in January, 1922, over a busy section of the line covering 105 miles has proved very satisfactory in controlling the movement of rolling stock; checking unnecessary haulage and in cases of breaches on the line expeditiously restoring communication. With the introduction of this system an enormous number of telegrams have been reduced. The system has been extended and now controls the main line between Ipoh and Seremban.

Passenger traffic.

123. The number of ordinary passengers carried was 12,552,621 in 1925, and 14,555,190 in 1926. The number for the year therefore shews an increase of 15.95 per cent. over that for the previous year. The total receipts from passengers shew an increase of \$2,002,842 (29.56 per cent.).

Goods traffic.

124. Receipts from goods train traffic rose by \$287,251 from \$9,141,342 to \$9,428,593, being an increase of 3.14 per cent.

Capital account.

125. During the year the nett expenditure on capital account was \$5,441,346 as compared with \$3,929,107 in 1925.

Kelantan section.

126. On the Kelantan section the line was opened for traffic as far as Kuala Krai (53 miles) and platelaying completed to the 70th mile and from the 76½ to 82nd mile besides 3 miles near the Pahang boundary. Earthwork is well in hand over the whole section. Nos. 1 and 2 tunnels at the 69th mile have been completed and work in the tunnels at the 74th, 86th and 94th miles is well advanced. The expenditure during the year amounted to \$2,735,703.

Pahang section.

127. Work on the Pahang section was reopened at the beginning of 1924 and good progress has been made. Platelaying has been completed beyond the Kelantan boundary at the 188th mile. The tunnel at the 172nd mile is nearing completion. The expenditure during the year amounted to \$627,663.

Teluk Ayer godowns, Singapore.

128. The Teluk Ayer godowns at Singapore have not so far been a successful investment, but there has been an increased demand for accommodation during the year. The capital cost to the Government was \$1,570,967. The cost to the Government last year was \$109,801, made up of \$17,600 for assessment, \$80,016 for ground rent, and \$12,185 for erection of partition and maintenance. The rent received was \$113,871. The total leasable area of this property is 298,496 square feet, of which 237,112 square feet were let under agreements for six

months or more, whilst space averaging 21,380 square feet per month was let for shorter periods during the year. The area under rent at the end of the year was 278,112 square feet.

129. The New Engine and Carriage Sheds and Goods Yards at Seremban were completed, and work progressed on the Goods and Marshalling Yards at Ipoh. Good progress was made on the Klang River Bridge. Work is well advanced on the doubling of the line Batu Junction to Kuala Lumpur. The work on the tunnel at Kuala Lumpur was commenced in 1924 and is nearing completion. Progress has been made on the earthwork and bridge for Victory Avenue. Minor works.

130. Work on the scheme for a supply of water to Prai from Bukit Serayah was reopened in February, 1925, and was practically completed during the year. The expenditure for the year was \$152,271. Bukit Serayah.

131. The Railway Board held 10 meetings during the year. It has three official and six unofficial members; and of the unofficials one resides in Singapore and another at Penang. Railway Board.

XV.—CO-OPERATION.

132. The European Officer in Charge of the department also supervised the development of the movement in the Straits Settlements and the Unfederated Malay States. European staff.

133. The Co-operative movement maintained uninterrupted progress throughout the year. The growth in the numbers of societies, of members and of working capital is revealed in the subjoined tabular statement which shows the position reached on June 30th, 1926—the date on which the financial year of societies closes. Progress, number of societies.

Details.		No.	Member-ship.	Working capital.
AGRICULTURAL.—				\$
Rural Credit	1923	6	177	3,175
	1924	20	725	22,267
	1925	42	1,741	38,843
	1926	75	3,172	97,101
NON-AGRICULTURAL.—				
Thrift and Loan Societies	1923	13	2,184	70,286
	1924	19	5,785	268,816
	1925	22	7,202	438,511
	1926	25	9,366	851,314
Grand Total 1926 ...		100	12,538	948,415

- New societies.** 134. Thirty-six new societies were registered during the course of the year: 33 were rural credit societies and three were salary-earners societies.
- Capital and funds.** 135. The paid up capital of the societies amounted to \$861,595. The total sum issued in loans to individual members and other societies came to \$1,185,273 as against \$619,847 in the preceding year. The repayment of principal and interest on loans amounted to \$842,981 as against \$368,484 in the previous year.
- Surplus assets.** 136. The working and paid up capital of societies multiplied itself about twofold in the course of the year. The cash in hand and in banks and other readily realisable assets which on 30th June exceeded \$150,000 had grown to about \$250,000 by October 31st, 1926. These surplus assets, for which it is difficult to find a lucrative investment at present, would be absorbed by a Co-operative Bank.
- Abolition of "Padi-ratus" system.** 137. The members of the Krian co-operative societies, who are padi planters have abandoned the "padi-ratus" system which is the bane of the padi planting industry in this country, and which compels the grower to sell his crop to his creditor sometimes at as low a rate as six cents a gantang. The societies supplied all the credit needs of their members who sold their crops at their pleasure at full market rates, and not necessarily at harvest time at low prices as they were obliged to do in the old days. They secured prices as high as 18 and 19 cents a gantang last year. It is estimated that the members of co-operative societies realised \$40 an acre more for their crops than their neighbours and fellow workers who had to borrow money for cultivation and other expenses from professional money-lenders, dealers, or through the other customary channels.
- Cessation of Government loans to subordinates and peasants.** 138. The Government system of loans granted by Heads of Departments to subordinates in Perak, Selangor and Negri Sembilan has been to a large extent replaced by the work of co-operative societies.

XVI.—GENERAL.

- Public Trustee.** 139. The year under review was the fourth year of the working of the Department of the Public Trustee. The duties of the Public Trustee are (a) to act in the administration of estates of small value, (b) to act as an ordinary trustee, and (c) to act as a trustee appointed by the Court. During the year, the Public Trustee accepted 18 trusts; in 11 cases he administered the estates of deceased persons, in one case he consented to act as an ordinary trustee and in six cases he was appointed

by the Court. Seven wills or copies of wills were deposited with the Public Trustee. The value of the property held in trust by the Public Trustee at the end of the year is estimated at about \$2,700,000.

140. During the year under review the effective strength of the Malay States Volunteer Regiment increased by 87 all ranks, a most satisfactory feature. Although many young men enrolled there is still room for improvement in this respect. Fifty-seven per cent. of the strength of the regiment are over 30 years of age. Volunteering.

Once again improvement was shown in musketry. Out of those exercised 88 per cent. were marksmen or first class shots.

The percentage of efficient volunteers has risen from 57.9 per cent. in 1923 to 82.1 per cent. in 1926, a most creditable achievement.

The school of instruction at Port Dickson was visited by 205 volunteers as compared with 183 in 1925.

The Easter Rifle Meeting at Kuala Lumpur attracted over 80 competitors from all over Malaya—a record for the meeting.

As regards the Malayan Volunteer Infantry all units were brought more directly under the control of the Commandant of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force, and organisation was introduced whereby greater uniformity both as regards training and administration in these units was ensured. This must inevitably result in greater efficiency throughout.

The great advantages derived by the Selangor and Pahang Malayan Volunteer Infantry from the services of regular Sergeant-Major Instructors amply justified their appointment.

Arrangements were made to appoint similar instructors for the Perak and Negri Sembilan Malayan Volunteer Infantry.

The reforming of the Negri Sembilan Malayan Volunteer Infantry and its recruitment up to authorised establishment was a feature of the year.

Considerable progress towards war efficiency was made by all units. As examples the following instances may be cited. The efficiency figures for the Perak Malayan Volunteer Infantry rose from 58.2 per cent. in 1925 to 75.2 per cent. in 1926. One hundred and forty-three men of the Selangor Malayan Volunteer Infantry completed their musketry classification as compared with 118 in 1925. The strength of the Negri Sembilan Malayan Volunteer Infantry rose from 84 to 231 and in the Pahang Malayan Volunteer Infantry 115 were classified as efficient in drill as compared with 90 in 1925.

Efforts were concentrated on the further training of leaders with considerable success.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. Meredith, D.S.O., The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, arrived in the country on the 1st July and assumed the duties of Commandant of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force.

Speaking generally the year was marked by consistent keenness and progress. The thanks of the Government are again due to the Rubber Growers Association, to the Federated Malay States Chamber of Mines, to the Press and to all other public and influential bodies which by their interest and encouragement did so much to help towards these results.

Finally the thanks of the Government are due to all ranks of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force themselves for their valuable and self-sacrificing services.

Planters' Loans Board.

141. On 1st January, 1926, the Planters' Loans Board had outstanding as "Planters' Loans" to five companies (\$221,000) and to 22 individuals (\$410,478) the sum of \$609,478. It lent only \$106,000 (in seven loans) during the year. In the course of the year, 19 properties repaid their loans in full amounting to \$305,728, while four properties made partial repayments amounting to \$13,700.

At the end of the year, the loans outstanding were \$288,500 to four companies and \$124,800 to 11 individuals.

Under the "War Service Land Grants" Scheme (of which the figures and accounts are not included in the statements given above) 109 ex-soldiers were benefiting by approved loans amounting to \$2,644,250, of which \$1,734,438 had actually been paid out.

During the year, new loans amounting to \$150,000 were approved, while 11 beneficiaries repaid their loans and one property was sold. At the end of the year, the total aggregate amount of the approved loans was \$2,513,000.

Interest earned amounted to \$129,995, of which \$46,372 was in respect of planters' loans and \$83,623 in respect of war service loans, while interest collected totalled \$136,470. Of this sum, \$76,103 was paid into Federal revenue and \$60,367 to the revenue of the Board. The Board's profit on the year's working amounted to \$27,774.

The general reserve fund stood at \$525,000 at the end of the year and the special reserve fund (in connection with war service loans) at \$50,000.

The Board operates upon a fund of \$4,000,000 provided by "The Planters Loans Fund Enactment, 1915". The fund (which can be increased by a resolution of the Federal Council) was originally created expressly for loans for agricultural purposes but by an amending Enactment published on 30th April, 1926, loans can now be made, not only for agricultural purposes, but for any such other purposes as may, in the opinion of the Board, directly assist in the general development of the Federated Malay States.

NOTES ON THE RAINFALL RESULTING IN THE RECORD FLOODS.

PERIOD, 17TH TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

142. The rainfall had been considerably below the normal Meteorological. for the month of December until 17th when light rain occurred all over the Peninsula, heavy falls occurring only in the northern part of Kelantan, 7.56 inches being recorded at Kuala Kelantan.

Moderate rainfall was generally experienced on the 18th to 22nd except in Kinta, Batang Padang, Lenggong, and South Kedah where it was heavy.

The 23rd was a day of heavy rain, especially in Kelantan, Pahang and along the western side of the main range. The 24th and 25th were dry, except in Kelantan and Pahang where heavy rains continued.

The 26th to 29th inclusive will probably figure as the wettest four days of which there are any records. Heavy rain occurred all over the Peninsula, the 27th having the heaviest falls. At Kuantan 20 inches were recorded on that day, and 54 inches in the four days, 26th to 29th. At the Freda Mine in Kemaman 51 inches were recorded on the five days, 25th to 29th. Moderate rain was general on the 30th and light rain on the 31st. There are very few rainfall stations in Pahang, and it is unfortunate that in several cases the records were lost during the floods. The Sungei Lembing records and those from the Benta-Kuantan road were among the number lost.

The Kuantan-Kemaman district was the centre of the heaviest fall—70-75 inches fell in the period December 17th to 31st. At 30 miles inland it fell to 50 inches, and on the eastern side of and on the main range it was 25-30 inches. At the foot

of the range on the western side it was 15-20 inches, and had decreased to seven inches by the time it reached the western coast.

In the Larut-Selama-Kulim district there was a fall of 20-25 inches.

Labour.

143. Returns of labour under section 82 of "The Labour Code, 1923," from 1,403 estates, including mines, showed 176,114 Madras Indians, 61,064 Chinese, 4,760 Javanese and 4,822 other nationalities. In addition, figures show 23,449 Madras Indians, 2,055 Chinese, 154 Javanese and 2,446 other nationalities employed by Government departments. The total returns from estates and Government departments combined thus show 199,563 Madras Indians, 63,119 Chinese, 4,914 Javanese and 7,268 other nationalities.

144. His Royal Highness Prince George visited the Federated Malay States early in the year, but his visit was entirely unofficial.

145. Sir George Maxwell, K.B.E., C.M.G., Chief Secretary to Government, retired early in May on reaching the age limit, and was succeeded by Mr. W. Peel, C.M.G.

146. The devolution policy was under consideration during the year, and reports on the financial aspect, the reconstitution of the Federal Council, and possible extension of the legislative powers of the State Councils, were submitted to the High Commissioner by Committees appointed for that purpose. The final report on the financial aspect was unanimously adopted by Federal Council at the meeting held in December. The report on the Reconstitution of the Federal Council was laid on the table at the same meeting, and was finally adopted early in 1927.

WILLIAM PEEL,

KUALA LUMPUR,
5th May, 1927.

*Chief Secretary to Government,
Federated Malay States.*

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.—GENERAL RETURN OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, TRADE, AND POPULATION.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Trade.		Exports of Tin and Tin-ore (in Tons).	Duty on Tin.	Exports of Rubber (in Tons).	Duty on Rubber.	Land Revenue and Land Sales.	Railway Receipts.	Population.	Year.
	₹	₹	Imports.	Exports.		₹		₹	₹	₹		
1889	5,013,000	4,091,078	15,653,456	19,720,689	26,029	1,750,008	...	...	190,538	359,025	373,343	1889
1890	4,840,065	5,237,275	15,443,809	17,602,093	26,976	1,609,401	...	...	166,054	406,032	398,780	1890
1891	4,572,310	5,554,800	14,898,942	18,495,554	32,114	1,573,441	...	...	199,880	414,889	424,218	1891
1892	5,347,189	5,883,407	19,161,159	22,662,359	33,477	2,097,274	...	...	300,680	537,111	449,656	1892
1893	6,413,134	7,697,538	21,896,117	27,373,760	38,912	2,602,380	...	...	347,600	723,934	475,093	1893
1894	7,511,809	7,162,396	24,496,015	32,703,147	47,676	3,238,000	...	...	457,262	986,617	500,531	1894
1895	8,481,007	7,582,553	22,653,271	31,622,805	49,592	3,379,813	...	...	468,239	1,294,390	525,989	1895
1896	8,434,083	8,598,147	21,143,895	28,395,855	48,541	3,126,974	...	...	511,237	1,344,984	551,407	1896
1897	8,296,687	8,795,313	25,000,682	31,148,340	44,095	2,716,263	...	...	636,054	1,294,139	576,844	1897
1898	9,364,467	11,110,042	27,116,446	35,241,003	41,167	3,210,699	...	...	636,927	1,394,720	602,282	1898
1899	13,486,410	11,489,478	33,765,073	54,895,139	38,960	6,181,542	...	...	639,899	1,722,475	627,720	1899
1900	15,609,807	12,738,930	38,402,581	60,361,045	43,111	7,050,382	...	...	712,898	2,254,742	653,157	1900
1901	17,541,507	17,273,158	39,524,603	63,107,177	47,475	6,968,183	...	...	626,114	2,377,040	678,595	1901
1902	20,550,543	15,986,247	45,787,240	71,350,243	47,258	8,438,775	...	...	661,668	2,856,640	714,435	1902
1903	22,672,567	16,319,873	47,790,059	80,263,944	50,842	9,590,505	...	...	721,304	3,608,054	750,276	1903
1904	22,255,269	19,318,768	46,955,742	77,630,084	51,733	8,814,688	...	...	801,959	3,905,029	786,116	1904
1905	23,964,593	20,750,395	50,575,455	80,067,654	50,991	9,249,627	104	...	887,593	3,940,599	821,957	1905
1906	27,223,476	18,899,425	50,926,606	80,832,325	48,617	10,036,798	432	...	1,437,763	4,564,100	867,797	1906
1907	28,793,745	20,225,993	52,542,277	80,593,196	48,429	9,395,825	905	...	1,701,633	5,200,911	893,637	1907
1908	24,623,325	25,874,573	48,171,243	65,599,833	50,835	7,285,864	1,402	...	1,598,713	5,066,153	929,478	1908
1909	25,246,863	23,633,851	46,194,598	76,273,438	48,743	7,155,124	2,698	...	1,623,876	5,868,507	965,318	1909
1910	26,553,010	23,598,610	53,255,151	102,851,990	43,862	7,162,026	5,439	...	2,201,469	5,868,507	1,001,159	1910
1911	35,056,544	25,202,749	66,532,039	116,280,927	44,148	8,818,764	8,792	...	2,290,962	7,058,689	1,036,999	1911
1912	42,647,687	30,990,487	76,122,679	154,974,195	48,420	10,850,121	15,638	...	2,875,451	8,421,016	1,109,017	1912
1913	44,332,711	47,287,581	86,408,157	148,669,498	50,126	10,729,888*	23,720	...	2,790,451*	9,469,446*	1,117,625	1913
1914	37,309,943	55,010,037	72,140,005||	122,962,929||	49,042	7,046,869	31,012	...	2,562,436	9,133,911	1,136,500	1914
1915	40,774,964	42,836,631	60,015,935||	161,836,118||	46,766	7,235,086	56,762	...	2,597,836	9,187,512	1,172,336	1915

NOTE.—The total Revenue and the total Expenditure of Perak, Selangor and Negri Sembilan in 1875 were, respectively, 549,384 and 543,872. Figures for Pahang first appear in 1880. Federation dates from 1st July, 1896. * A census of the population was taken in 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921. The population of Perak in 1879 was estimated at 81,084, and in 1890 at 164,801; that of Selangor in 1884 at 41,568 and in 1887 at 97,106. No figures for the other States are given prior to 1871. * As now corrected. || Excluding bullion and specie.

APPENDIX A—(cont.).

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.—GENERAL RETURN OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, TRADE, AND POPULATION—(cont.).

Year.	Revenue. \$	Expenditure. \$	Trade.		Exports of Tin and Tin-ore (in Tons).	Duty on Tin. \$	Exports of Rubber (in Tons).	Duty on Rubber. \$	Land Revenue and Land Sales. \$	Railway Receipts. \$	Population.	Year.
			Imports.	Exports.								
1916	51,121,856	31,966,581	69,621,113 ⁱⁱ	219,943,686 ⁱⁱ	43,870	7,903,785	62,813	3,851,815	3,068,766	11,616,696	1,208,177	1916
1917	65,553,186	40,876,746	73,261,725	271,465,389 ⁱⁱ	39,833	9,331,288	80,022	4,914,781	3,308,464	13,189,829	1,244,018	1917
1918	68,448,862	45,286,910	74,750,746	223,066,282 ⁱⁱ	37,370	13,141,841	78,389	2,254,556	3,657,454	13,106,413	1,279,859	1918
1919	72,135,075	70,676,961	118,854,965	279,135,105	36,934	9,944,177	106,453	4,883,123	3,533,829	14,957,460	1,315,700	1919
1920	72,277,146	100,433,371	170,522,123	288,715,698	34,934	12,203,531	101,330	4,443,100	4,004,095	17,316,533	1,300,000	1920
1921	54,449,568	114,386,546	102,914,877	134,955,549	34,489	6,153,360	94,510	164,169	3,568,490	16,198,426	1,296,292 ^s	1921
1922	52,494,110	49,811,007	78,822,349	140,429,775	35,286	5,766,808	128,461	802,390	3,731,041	13,816,324	1,360,876	1922
1923	63,952,132	52,825,572	89,088,237	197,100,950	37,650	8,265,195	101,311	4,664,374	3,919,900	14,675,106	1,389,667	1923
1924	70,715,407	54,161,234	97,436,302	212,884,740	44,043	12,543,624	93,507	4,228,677	4,135,322	16,210,202	1,418,455	1924
1925	86,564,279	69,550,382	137,116,207	411,878,610	45,996	13,988,887	107,178	8,667,701	3,833,622 [†]	18,743,352	1,447,243	1925
1926	102,541,400	87,663,747	173,887,724	445,600,203	45,947	15,604,582	161,188	11,193,115	5,389,042	21,640,545	1,476,032	1926

ⁱⁱ Excluding bullion and specie. ^s A census of the population was taken in 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921. The population of Perak in 1879 was estimated at 81,064, and in 1909 at 134,801; that of Selangor in 1884 at 40,368 and in 1907 at 97,106. No figures for the other States are given prior to 1891. [†] The figures for previous years included items now omitted owing to reclassification of revenue.

APPENDIX B.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS STERLING LOAN CAPITAL ACCOUNT TO

31st DECEMBER, 1926.

Dr.				Cr.
	\$	c.	\$	c.
To Loan Expenses—				
Interest on Deferred instalments, 6 per cent. Loan ...	268,092	28		
Interest on Deferred instalments, 4½ per cent. Loan ...	110,958	96		
Composition Stamp Duty, 6 per cent. Loan ...	552,321	42	379,051	24
Composition Stamp Duty, 4½ per cent. Loan ...	360,000	00		
			912,321	42
Discount on Issue Price, 6 per cent. Loan ...	1,325,571	43		
Discount on Issue Price, 4½ per cent. Loan ...	1,800,000	00		
			3,125,571	43
Underwriting Commission, 6 per cent. Loan ...	441,857	14		
Underwriting Commission, 4½ per cent. Loan ...	360,000	00		
			801,857	14
Commission for obtaining Underwriting, 6 per cent. Loan ...	110,464	29		
Commission for obtaining Underwriting, 4½ per cent. Loan ...	90,000	00		
			200,464	29
Crown Agents' Commission, 6 per cent. Loan ...	110,464	29		
Crown Agents' Commission, 4½ per cent. Loan ...	90,000	00		
			200,464	29
Brokerage to Sundry Brokers and Bankers on the allotment of Stock, 6 per cent. Loan ...	106,049	28		
Brokerage to Sundry Brokers and Bankers on the allotment of Stock, 4½ per cent. Loan ...	89,355	00		
			197,404	28
Miscellaneous — Stamps, etc., 6 per cent. Loan ...	5,873	21		
Miscellaneous — Stamps, etc., 4½ per cent. Loan ...	4,475	18		
			10,348	39
Advertisement, 6 per cent. Loan ...	31,052	18		
Advertisement, 4½ per cent. Loan ...	29,630	03		
			60,682	21
To Loan Works—			5,886,164	69
Public Works Department ...	20,395,572	66		
Posts and Telegraphs Department ...	1,566,693	44		
Topographical Survey Department ...	779,023	06		
Topographical Survey of Forest Reserves ...	67,043	83		
Railway—Open Lines ...	2,574,503	30		
„ Construction ...	30,263,800	16		
			55,646,666	46
To Balance ...			18,650,893	14
			340,185,714	29
				340,185,714 29

PRINTED AT THE
FEDERATED MALAY STATES GOVERNMENT PRESS,
KUALA LUMPUR.

Beaur

PHOTAT

MRS

BHARU

1953

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1345.



STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1264, and for Report for 1925 see No. 1302, Price 2s. od. each).



PRINTED IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927

Price 1s. 9d. net.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased.

ASHANTI.	HONG KONG.
BAHAMAS.	JAMAICA.
BARBADOS.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
BASUTOLAND.	LEEWARD ISLANDS.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.	MAURITIUS.
BERMUDA.	NEW HEBRIDES.
BRITISH GUIANA.	NIGERIA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.	NORTHERN RHODESIA.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.	NYASALAND.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.	ST. HELENA.
CAYMEN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).	ST. LUCIA.
CEYLON.	ST. VINCENT.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.	SEYCHELLES.
CYPRUS.	SIERRA LEONE.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.	SOMALILAND.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
FIJI.	SWAZILAND.
GAMBIA.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
GIBRALTAR.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.	UGANDA.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
GRENADA.	WEI-HAI-WEI.
	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS.	PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN.
IRAQ.	TANGANYIKA.
	TOGOLAND.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COLONY OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Historical and Geographical Notes.

The Straits Settlements, comprising at that time Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude $1^{\circ} 17'$ north, and longitude $103^{\circ} 50'$ east.

SITUATION AND AREA

SINGAPORE

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

PENANG

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in $5^{\circ} 24'$ north latitude, and $100^{\circ} 21'$ east longitude.

MALACCA

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in $2^{\circ} 10'$ north latitude, and $102^{\circ} 14'$ east longitude.

THE DINDINGS

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut (latitude $4^{\circ} 15'$ north and longitude $100^{\circ} 35'$ east), the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

COCOS OR KEELING ISLANDS

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude $11^{\circ} 50'$ and $12^{\circ} 45'$ south, and in longitude approximately $96^{\circ} 50'$ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude $10^{\circ} 30'$ south, longitude $105^{\circ} 40'$ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employees of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

In 1923 a wireless station was installed by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company and the island is now in direct communication with Singapore.

LABUAN

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

The average annual rainfall is about 168 inches, and the thermometer ranges from 71° to 93°.

Labuan has a fine port, Victoria Harbour (latitude 55° 16' north, longitude 115° 15' east), safe, and easy of access

It is a market for produce from Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, such as sago, beeswax, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, india-rubber, rattans, tortoise-shell, and bêche-de-mer, which is re-exported to Singapore. Cattle and goats are reared and 2,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation.

There is a branch of the Government Post Office Savings Bank, but no other bank. The currency is that of the Straits Settlements.

The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and other natives from Brunei, and Chinese, the latter being mostly petty traders.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has a station on the island connected by cable with Singapore, Hongkong and North Borneo. The nearest point in telegraphic communication with Europe is Singapore.

•

The population at the 1921 Census was 5,909.

TOTAL AREA

The total area of the Colony and dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

CLIMATE

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore during 1926 was 80·1° F; in Penang 82·2° F; in Province Wellesley 81·4° F; and in Malacca 83·0° F.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 87·7° and 74·8° F. The maximum recorded was 93·5° F. on 23rd April at Singapore. The minimum was 70·7° F. on 6th February. The gross minimum in Singapore was 68·5° F. in May and June.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of

10 years, from 1916 to 1925, it is found in Singapore, that there is an annual average of 173 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period is 2526·7 m.m. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest year was 1913 with 3,442·37 m.m. and the driest was 1877, with 1,482·7 m.m. The average for the sixty-four years is 2,248·5 m.m. The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, *viz.*:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is not unusual to have south-east or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1925	1926
	—	—
Singapore ...	2,959·32	2,172·38
Penang ...	3,744·00	3,033·00
Malacca ...	2,726·05	1,945·08
Province Wellesley ...	2,876·68	2,612·00
Labuan ...	3,150·03	3,182·00
Dindings ...	—	1,559·00

HISTORY

MALACCA

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by NAPOLEON the English occupied it. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by FRANCIS LIGHT in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources.

PENANG

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah who stipulated that the sum of \$6,000 should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to \$10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River: it is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint FRANCIS XAVIER despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

I.—Finances

The revenue for the year 1926 amounted to \$36,465,213 exceeding the estimate by \$8,334,473, whilst the expenditure was \$36,955,640, being \$1,799,505 more than the estimate.

The revenue was \$17,385,747 less than that of 1925, while expenditure was less than the 1925 figure by \$20,638,319. The excess of expenditure over revenue was \$490,428 as compared with \$3,742,999 in 1925.

The revenue for 1925 was inflated by \$20 millions transferred to the Colony from the Currency Commissioners' funds, and the expenditure for that year included \$30 millions paid into the Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund under the heading Miscellaneous Services.

The actual figures for 1925 and 1926 are as follows :—

(i).—REVENUE

—	1925	1926	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	2,357	2,715	358	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	24,764,770	27,682,559	2,917,789	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ...	1,082,323	1,191,514	109,191	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	1,972,011	2,120,394	148,383	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,543,066	1,662,692	119,626	...
6. Interest ...	3,234,370	2,737,371	...	496,999
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	20,709,385	544,198	...	20,165,187
	53,308,282	35,941,443	3,295,347	20,662,186
Land Sales ...	542,678	523,770	...	18,908
TOTAL ...	53,850,960	36,465,213	3,295,347	20,681,094
	Net	Decrease ...	\$17,385,747	

There was a decrease of \$255,000 in opium revenue, but the total receipts under "Licences" exceeded the 1925 figure by nearly three millions owing to the following increases:—

			\$
Stamp Duties and Estate Duties	...		635,000
Liquors	...	...	1,025,000
Tobacco	...	...	756,000
Pawnbrokers Ordinance	...		352,000
Petroleum Duty Ordinance 115	...		349,000

The Estate Duty collected in 1926 amounted to \$2,420,759 as against \$1,991,297 in 1925.

The actual revenue of 1926 exceeded the estimate under the following heads:—

			\$
Liquors	...	...	1,143,435
Petroleum Duty Ordinance 115	...		284,395
Stamp Duties and Estate Duties	...		1,824,636
Tobacco Duties	...	...	486,221
Fees of Court	...	...	178,123
Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	374,712
Rents on Government Property	...		262,802
Interest	...	...	452,351
Miscellaneous Receipts	...	...	321,744
Land Sales	...	...	468,470

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

—	1925	1926	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. ...	1,069,440	1,422,411	352,971	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	19,724	20,175	451	...
4. The Governor ...	128,363	155,337	26,974	...
5. Civil Service ...	704,263	667,060	...	37,203
6. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident Secretary to High Commissioner ...	198,579	199,150	571	...
7. Agricultural Department ...	16,689	21,507	4,818	...
8. Audit ...	32,906	35,256	2,350	...
9. Audit, External ...	102,373	103,623	1,250	...
10. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	11,130	11,501	371	...
11. Ecclesiastical ...	79,053	90,819	11,766	...
12. Education ...	25,124	25,234	110	...
13. Fisheries ...	1,063,978	1,106,086	42,108	...
14. Forests ...	140,257	218,841	78,584	...
15. Gardens, Botanical ...	36,913	27,078	...	9,835
16. Imports, Exports and Statistics ...	91,298	97,310	6,012	...
17. Land and District Offices ...	82,976	92,027	9,051	...
18. Legal ...	332,676	354,494	21,818	...
19. Marine ...	382,840	422,269	39,429	...
20. Marine Surveys ...	760,046	639,753	...	120,293
21. Medical ...	...	76,065	76,065	...
22. Medical, Health Branch ...	436,980	462,081	25,101	...
23. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	393,458	511,289	117,831	...
24. Military Expenditure—	1,585,702	1,973,157	387,455	...
I. Defence Contribution ...	3,279,881	3,630,388	350,507	...
II. Local Forces ...	355,708	335,081	..	20,627
25. Miscellaneous Services ...	33,589,748	10,323,772	...	23,265,976
26. Monopolies ...	836,656	1,970,547	1,133,891	...
27. Museum and Library	...	...	...	...
Raffles ...	51,093	59,877	8,784	...
28. Police ...	2,467,555	2,501,737	34,182	...
29. Political Intelligence Bureau ...	...	3,870	3,870	...
30. Post Office ...	1,488,832	1,486,783	...	2,049
31. Printing Office ...	177,650	205,603	27,953	...
32. Prisons ...	380,683	363,229	...	17,454
33. Public Works Department ...	481,885	509,123	27,238	...
34. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ...	633,938	701,612	67,674	...
35. Public Works, Extraordinary ...	5,142,549	5,145,540	2,991	...
36. Survey Department ...	414,557	415,664	1,107	...
37. Transport ...	299,190	256,461	...	42,729
38. Treasury ...	203,143	215,772	12,629	...
39. Veterinary ...	59,040	60,975	1,935	...
40. TOTAL ...	57,593,959	36,955,640	2,877,847	23,516,166
	Nett	Decrease ...	\$20,638,319	

The increase under Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities etc., is due to commutation of pensions under the Pensions (Gratuities) Ordinance 1926.

The larger Defence Contribution is attributable to enhanced cost of the Garrison.

The increase under Medical, Health Branch, is caused by an extension of anti-mosquito work, while the higher figure under Hospitals and Dispensaries is largely due to augmented Government contributions.

The increase under Monopolies is explained below.

The principal items on which expenditure fell short of the estimate were:—

				\$
Civil Service	...	...	...	116,702
Audit, External	...	...	...	60,110
Education	...	...	...	182,114
Medical, Health Branch	...	...	...	107,353
Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries	...	...	...	414,356
Police	...	...	...	325,867
Post Office	...	...	...	120,773
Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure	...	...	...	75,183
Public Works Extraordinary	...	...	...	1,213,008
Survey Department	...	...	...	88,530

An excess of nearly \$3½ million over the estimate for Miscellaneous Services was due to the payment of \$1,235,000 to the Singapore Town Improvement Scheme, \$500,000 to the Penang Water Supply Scheme and to various other un-estimated services.

The Monopolies Department exceeded its Estimates by \$937,420 in consequence of special expenditure on Government Opium Shops and Opium Packing Plant.

The following table shows the Colony's expenditure, excluding Defence Contribution and Special Expenditure connected with the War, for the last eight years and the portion of it which has been spent on Public Works Extraordinary :—

			<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>Public Works Extraordinary</i>
			—	—
			\$	\$
1919	...	...	29,111,433	892,571
1920	...	...	35,452,052	1,465,890
1921	...	...	29,807,490	3,531,938
1922	...	...	20,969,940	2,266,281
1923	...	...	22,860,635	2,519,954
1924	..	...	23,150,128	4,223,846
1925	...	...	54,314,078	5,142,549
1926	...	...	33,325,253	5,145,540

The difference of $4\frac{1}{4}$ millions between expenditure for 1919 and expenditure for 1926 is mainly due to the increase in Public Works Extraordinary.

(iii).—STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1926, were as follows:—

<i>Liabilities</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>Assets</i>	<i>\$</i>
Deposits—		Investments—	
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	\$35,260,658	Colony ...	\$30,360,129
Other Deposits ...	12,531,130	Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ...	34,400,699
	47,791,788	Other investments	4,830,397
			69,591,225
Drafts and Remittances ...	45,587	Advances ...	608,027
Suspense ...	2,871,410	Imprests ...	74,159
		Cash in Transit ...	34,980
Loans:—		Loans:—	
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921-1926 ...	14,900	Municipalities ...	18,020,322
		Kelantan Government ...	4,407,541
Surplus—		Trengganu Government ...	1,000,000
Reserved for specific purposes (a) ...	\$21,639,797	Singapore Harbour Board ...	4,965,604
Unreserved ...	40,955,104	Penang Harbour Board ...	1,443,026
	62,594,901	Ho Hong Steamship Co. ...	170,000
		Singapore Cricket Club ...	33,996
		Brunei Government ...	14,000
		Sailors' Institute ...	155,000
		Stadium Association ...	25,000
		War Service Land Grants Scheme ...	160,824
		Indian Agency Account ...	271,995
		Cash ...	12,342,887
TOTAL ...	113,318,586	TOTAL ...	113,318,586

(a) Loans:—

Loans to Municipalities	...	...	\$3,354,857
Loan to Government of Trengganu	...	...	1,000,000
Loan to Penang Harbour Board	...	...	1,173,500
Loan to Kelantan Government	...	...	362,459
War Service Land Grants Scheme	...	...	130,225
			\$6,021,041

Commitments of Expenditure:—

For completion of New Post Office and New General Hospital	...	...	\$2,582,672
Raffles College Buildings	...	...	729,360
Malacca Water Supply	...	...	507,279
Share of Cost to Penang Water Supply	...	...	500,000
Development of Penang Hill	...	...	606,792
Singapore Town Improvement Scheme	...	...	8,764,422
New Mental Hospital	...	...	1,928,231
			\$15,618,756
TOTAL ...			\$21,639,797

(iv).—PUBLIC DEBT

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1926 to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is \$59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

		\$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore ...	...	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...	...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works ...	...	320,137
Total ...		<u>\$55,869,097</u>
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion		
(1907 Loan) less interest received ...	...	<u>3,388,205</u>
		<u>\$59,257,302</u>

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan was \$2,079,902 in 1926. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the sinking fund of this loan on 31st December, 1926, was approximately \$8,450,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent War Loan 1918 stands at \$28,655,700, under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 at \$36,718,200, and under the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 at \$15,074,300. The principal of, and the major portion of the interest on, all these three loans is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance 24 of 1921 amounted to \$80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the loan and of sinking fund contributions to extinguish it.

(v).—EXCHANGE

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1926:—

- The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China
- „ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
- „ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited
- „ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited
- „ Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited
- „ Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij)
- „ Banque de l'Indo Chine
- „ International Banking Corporation
- „ Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank)
- „ Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited
- „ Bank of Taiwan, Limited
- „ Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited
- „ Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited
- „ Ho Hong Bank, Limited
- „ China and Southern Bank, Limited
- „ Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited
- „ Lee Wah Bank, Limited

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between $2\frac{1}{4}$ 5/32 and $2\frac{3}{11}$ 11/16.

(vi).—CURRENCY

No change was made in the Currency legislation during the year.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the currency area at the end of the year,

consisted of \$163,279,713.70 in currency notes and \$6,594,417 in dollars and half-dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of \$140,165 as compared with \$140,958 at the end of 1925.

At the end of the year 1925 the currency notes in circulation amounted in value to \$161,432,313.70. There was a demand by the public for currency during the month of January, which resulted in the issue of \$2,108,560 in exchange for sterling. The value of the currency notes in circulation at the end of 1926 was \$163,279,713.70.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to \$101,720,378.01 consisting of £328,251 in gold, \$15,685,610.50 in silver and \$1,720,416.44 on deposit with the Government held locally and £73,330 in gold and £9,435,093.5.10 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, \$100,461,777.51; the cost price of those investments having been \$103,776,579.49.

The Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth \$202,231,498.13 (liquid portion \$101,720,378.01, investment portion \$100,461,777.51, and cash balance of the Currency Commissioners Income Account \$49,342.61). The excess value of the fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was \$38,951,784.43 as compared with an excess of \$33,517,951.54 at the end of 1925.

There was a net issue by the Treasury of \$1,122,055.30 in subsidiary silver coins during the year, and a net decrease of \$169,147 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Nine million five hundred and sixty-four thousand nine hundred and eighty-six dollars and ninety-five cents was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and \$1,923,607.70 in current notes of values less than \$1.

The value of notes below \$1 in circulation at the end of 1924 was \$1,539,949.70 and at the end of 1925 \$2,092,754.70.

The number of notes destroyed during the year was 31,148,533 against 20,411,186 in 1925.

Of the notes destroyed 14,583,345 were 10 cent notes and 9,356,102 were \$1 notes.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 285,964, and a further 31,488,986 were cancelled during the year, making a total of 31,774,950 for destruction. The total number destroyed was 31,148,533 and the balance awaiting destruction at the end of the year was consequently 626,417.

(vii) ENEMY PROPERTY

During the year a sum of \$353,365.11 was transferred to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London. The total proceeds of liquidation of Enemy Property so transferred, to the end of 1926, amounted to \$12,759,509.33. On 31st December, 1926, \$1,050,971.75 was still held by the Crown Agents for the Colonies and \$110,398 by the Local Custodian in investments, while the latter also had a cash balance of \$22,477.32, making a total of \$1,183,847.07.

LOCAL CLEARING OFFICE

The position at the end of 1926, in regard to the different classes of claims was as follows:—

German claims.—The total value of all claims registered was \$1,893,509.93: claims for \$1,582,643.52 have been withdrawn and claims for \$193,287.13 admitted. Claims to the extent of \$66,932.83 were under reference to the Anglo-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal and in addition there were claims amounting to \$50,646.45 still undecided.

The total amount due on the admitted claims referred to above together with interest—\$30,870.38—comes to \$224,157.51. Of this \$179,083.85 has been recovered. Of the outstanding balance of \$45,073.66, about \$17,200 will probably prove, for various reasons, to be irrecoverable. The remaining amount of \$27,800 is almost entirely in respect of one claim which will be settled as soon as a decision is arrived at in regard to a contra claim now before the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal.

The amount collected from British nationals on account of German claims during 1926, was \$2,947.98 of which \$1,512.10 was in respect of interest.

British claims.—The total value of all claims registered was \$217,366.37. Of this \$106,443.48 has been withdrawn and \$40,142.01 admitted. Claims of a value of \$49,341.28 were under reference to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal and in addition there were claims amounting to \$21,439.60 still undecided.

British claims under Article 297.—Claims under this Article to a total value of \$77,615.68 have been registered, and of this \$49,951.45 has been withdrawn and \$27,664.23 admitted. In addition credit has been given by Germany for \$1,784.28 as compensation to British nationals for the loss of the use of their money.

The total amount paid to British claimants under Articles 296 and 297 since the establishment of the office is \$60,854.81.

Claims by Austrian and Hungarian nationals.—The total value of all claims registered was \$39,244.36, but claims to \$39,057.80 have been withdrawn. The whole of the balance of \$186.56, admitted, has been collected together with \$84.27 in respect of interest.

Claims against Austrian and Hungarian nationals.—The claims registered were of a total value of \$3,021.41 and have been wholly admitted. Dividends to the extent of 9/- in the £ have been credited and distributed to the claimants.

Local Controller's Investments.—These amounted to \$130,000 at the end of 1926 and there was also a cash balance of \$4,495.67.

II.—Shipping and Trade, Agriculture, Forests, Land and Fisheries

(a) SHIPPING

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 38,028,630 as compared with 35,032,127 in 1925.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1925 and 1926

NATIONALITY	1925				1926				Increase in 1926 as compared with 1925	Decrease in 1926 as compared with 1925
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christ-mas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christ-mas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)
Finnish	4,726	...	...	...	4,726	...	...	...	...	4,726
Greek	7,354	7,354	...	...	14,708	...	...	...	...	14,708
American	727,987	457,410	...	...	1,185,397	637,294	440,588	...	1,077,882	107,515
Brazilian	...	...	...	...	...	2,046	...	...	2,046	...
Portuguese	4,162	...	...	...	4,162	...	...	...	...	4,162
British	10,716,681	6,702,889	323,198	227,796	17,970,564	10,977,421	7,412,642	360,294	280,368	1,060,161
Chinese	69,372	3,176	11,562	...	84,110	87,484	22,104	...	...	25,478
Danish	428,251	154,245	...	...	582,496	454,584	249,492	...	...	121,580
Dutch	4,610,403	844,256	...	4,828	5,459,487	5,280,403	1,322,971	644	7,750	6,611,768
French	1,446,564	223,676	...	...	1,670,240	1,624,699	65,554	...	...	1,152,281
German	846,984	373,234	...	...	1,220,218	928,778	355,594	...	...	20,013
Italian	327,696	222,546	...	...	550,242	326,456	183,440	...	...	64,154
Japanese	3,708,036	1,062,522	251,422	82,418	5,104,398	3,918,010	1,193,962	235,714	93,700	336,988
Norwegian	536,506	38,292	...	1,874	576,672	777,221	98,080	4,566	6,924	40,346
Panama	...	...	...	...	...	15,980	...	...	...	...
Russian	22,058	6,254	...	...	28,312	31,606	...	...	...	...
Sarawak	100,181	94	...	5,360	105,635	118,802	...	...	...	...
Siamese	187,297	...	812	...	188,109	192,659	...	...	2,038	15,205
Spanish	66,812	...	...	...	66,812	59,900	...	...	...	4,550
Swedish	193,656	9,002	...	13,181	215,839	194,986	63,876	...	...	...
TOTALS	24,004,726	10,104,950	586,994	335,457	35,032,127	25,628,329	11,408,303	601,218	390,780	3,174,872
										178,369
										2,996,503
										Net Increase ...

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1922 ...	...	...	26,913,256 tons.
1923 ...	...	...	29,936,949 „
1924 ...	...	...	32,617,101 „
1925 ...	...	...	35,032,127 „
1926 ...	...	...	38,028,630 „

Of the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 62,980 in number and 2,239,590 in tons as compared with 64,913 and 2,250,486, respectively, in 1925.

Three new steam-vessels and four motor-vessels, with a tonnage of 1,741 tons gross, and twenty-six sailing-vessels (2,196 tons) were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 11 new sailing-vessels (800 tons) were licensed under section 424, and 886 vessels (10,187 tons) under section 425.

HARBOUR BOARDS

The income and expenditure of the SINGAPORE HARBOUR BOARD for the years ended June 30, 1925, and June 30, 1926, have been as follows:—

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	\$	\$
Year ended 30th June, 1925 ...	9,827,256	7,110,249
Year ended 30th June, 1926 ...	12,055,233	8,354,278

The Capital debt due to Government amounted to \$52,698,161 at June 30th, 1926, in respect of which sum the Board pay interest half yearly, at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on \$50,126,733 and on the balance of \$2,571,428 at the rate of 3 per cent per annum.

In addition to this capital the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of \$6,160,648 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the PENANG HARBOUR BOARD for the year ended 30th June, 1926, were \$1,614,824 and the expenditure \$1,276,889.

The capital debt due to Government stood on 30th June, 1926, at \$3,457,964.

(b) TRADE

The aggregate value of the recorded trade of the Colony in 1926 amounted to 295 million Sterling which is only 17% less than in the record year, 1925. It is worthy of note that the total remains so high, as the decrease in the aggregate value of the trade in Rubber was no less than 155 million Dollars, or 18 million Sterling; but the increase in the value of the trade in many other commodities, the principal being Rice, Tin, Motor Spirit, Pepper and Copra, more or less balanced the decrease in the value of Rubber.

The total quantity of Rubber exported was about 273,000 tons, or some 24,000 tons more than in 1925; but its value amounted only to 493 million Dollars which was a decrease of 75 million.

The quantity of Rubber imported increased by 20,000 tons, from 260,000 to 280,000, but the value decreased by 80 million Dollars. The quantity imported during 1926 was again more than that exported by 7,000 tons. The value of the imported Rubber was 103 million Dollars less than that exported. It should be noted that in the case of Rubber imported the weight declared includes moisture and impurities, while in the case of exports the dry weight was recorded.

The quantity of tin exported was 2,754 tons less than in 1925, but 10 million Dollars more was received for it.

The following figures show the value of the Colony's trade for the last six years, the value of Coin and Bullion and of the trade between the Settlements being excluded:—

Year	IMPORTS EXPORTS		IMPORTS EXPORTS	
	of Merchandise		Comparison with preceding year	
		(in thousands)		
	£	£	£	£
1921 ...	65,791	56,138	- 58,425	- 46,398
1922 ...	66,692	62,060	+ 901	+ 5,922
1923 ...	89,002	82,590	+ 22,310	+ 20,530
1924 ...	98,915	89,430	+ 9,913	+ 6,840
1925 ...	152,338	143,137	+ 53,423	+ 53,707
1926 ...	154,026	140,966	+ 1,688	- 2,171

The value of the inter-Settlement trade, including treasure, for the last six years was as follows:—

Year	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	IMPORTS EXPORTS Comparison with preceding year	
			(in thousands)	
	£	£	£	£
1921 ...	6,904	6,887	- 8,034	- 7,910
1922 ...	5,148	5,078	- 1,756	- 1,809
1923 ...	5,728	5,607	+ 580	+ 529
1924 ...	5,125	5,049	- 603	- 558
1925 ...	7,584	7,665	+ 2,459	+ 2,616
1926 ...	8,133	8,042	+ 549	+ 377

Bullion and Specie.—The following are the figures for the last four years:—

Imports. Exports.

(in thousands)

	£	£
1923 ...	1,883	616
1924 ...	1,607	561
1925 ...	4,732	1,423
1926 ...	5,450	1,729

The following figures show the trade according to classes:—

	IMPORTS				EXPORTS			
	1923	1924	1925	1926	1923	1924	1925	1926
	(In thousands)							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	26,223	28,348	32,412	35,581	19,722	21,412	24,031	26,524
II. Raw Materials	46,425	43,839	80,922	74,270	53,191	32,999	74,379	66,359
III. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles ...	16,354	26,728	39,004	44,175	9,677	35,019	44,727	48,083
TOTAL ...	89,002	98,915	152,338	154,026	82,590	89,430	143,137	140,966

The following tables show the quantities and values of certain principal commodities imported and exported:—

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IMPORTED

Articles	How Stated	1925		1926		INCREASE		DECREASE	
		Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values
			(000's)		(000's)		(000's)		(000's)
Para Rubber	Tons.	259,587	\$ 470,253	279,641	\$ 389,951	20,054	\$	...	\$ 80,302
Tin Ore	"	95,759	148,369	93,888	160,715	...	12,346	1,871	...
Rice	"	612,820	75,875	679,293	87,813	66,473	11,938	...	...
Milk Condensed and Sterilized	Cases	991,012	12,632	1,136,393	14,166	145,381	1,534	...	...
Sugar	Tons.	112,962	15,813	108,827	15,168	...	...	4,135	645
Cigarettes	lbs.	14,308,093	26,377	11,092,078	23,463	...	...	3,216,015	2,914
Fish, Dried and Salted	Tons.	67,100	15,804	67,566	17,868	466	2,064	...	...
Arecanuts	"	55,300	14,145	58,202	13,914	2,892	...	...	231
Motor Spirit ("Benzine")	"	211,445	59,335	255,853	70,503	44,408	11,168	...	...
Petroleum ("Kerosene")	"	98,401	16,157	79,684	13,308	...	...	18,717	2,849
Sago	"	48,357	4,284	38,225	3,291	...	...	10,132	993
Cotton Piece Goods	Yards.	167,897,479	45,359	147,876,310	40,396	...	...	19,953,439	4,963
Sarongs	Nos.	12,491,223	17,200	12,310,809	17,304	...	104	...	...
Copra	Tons.	150,573	28,921	170,495	32,094	19,922	3,173	...	...
Pepper	"	14,236	9,400	14,357	12,228	121	2,828	...	...
Rattans	"	23,094	3,873	23,466	4,785	372	912	...	...
Coal	"	649,573	8,219	799,094	9,581	149,521	1,362	...	...
Machinery	Nos.	88,502	8,938	123,404	12,854	34,902	3,916	...	...

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED

Articles	How Stated	1925		1926		INCREASE		DECREASE	
		Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values	Quantities	Values
			(000's)		(000's)		(000's)		(000's)
			\$		\$		\$		\$
Para Rubber	Tons.	248,138	568,523	272,546	493,314	24,408	...	...	75,209
Tin	"	79,094	175,229	76,340	185,511	...	10,312	2,754	...
Rice	"	405,412	51,748	461,821	61,531	56,409	9,783	...	...
Milk Condensed and Sterilized	Cases.	491,453	6,325	616,105	7,751	124,652	1,426	...	...
Sugar	Tons	54,505	7,867	56,208	8,248	1,703	381	...	...
Cigarettes	lbs.	10,925,283	18,979	8,956,879	18,999	...	20	1,968,404	...
Fish, Dried and Salted	Tons.	64,335	16,166	66,459	17,810	2,124	1,644	...	...
Areanuts	"	58,787	18,208	62,885	17,248	4,098	...	...	960
Benzine ("Motor Spirit")	"	201,413	56,161	224,468	62,448	23,055	6,287	...	...
Petroleum ("Kerosene")	"	79,418	12,575	82,739	12,420	3,321	...	...	155
Sago	"	51,240	5,651	41,757	4,508	...	...	9,483	1,143
Cotton Piece Goods	Yards.	101,667,282	27,852	94,372,564	25,718	...	...	7,294,718	2,134
Sarongs	Nos.	7,110,022	10,417	6,977,555	10,265	...	...	132,467	152
Copra	Tons.	142,833	30,064	168,083	33,653	25,250	3,589	...	...
Pepper	"	15,820	10,187	14,584	13,386	...	3,199	1,236	...
Rattans	"	18,627	4,878	16,993	4,797	...	...	1,634	81
Preserved Pineapples	"	38,320	7,423	36,916	7,012	...	...	1,404	411
Rubber Latex	Gals.	21,157	62	28,331	84	7,174	22	...	...

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926:—

—	1923		1924		1925		1926	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
	(000's)	(000's) \$		(000's) \$		(000's) \$		(000's) \$
Malay States ...	2,272	107,739	90,519	88,843	100,656	232,636	128,130	219,454
Netherlands Indies ...	1,331	44,533	93,113	61,797	138,870	195,881	132,986	141,587
Other Countries ...	247	11,001	15,411	14,501	20,061	41,736	18,525	28,910
Total ...	3,850	163,273	199,043	165,141	259,587	470,253	279,641	389,951

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926:—

—	1923		1924		1925		1926	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
	(000's)	(000's) \$		(000's) \$		(000's) \$		(000's) \$
United Kingdom ...	498	25,465	14,020	14,755	20,540	54,170	34,260	64,262
United States of America ...	3,247	161,238	162,465	164,197	190,683	427,543	195,894	354,320
Other Countries ...	843	41,190	33,650	33,903	36,915	86,810	42,392	74,732
Total ...	4,588	227,893	210,135	212,855	248,138	568,523	272,546	493,314

Tin and Tin Ore were imported in 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926 from the following countries:—

—	1923		1924		1925		1926	
	Tin	Tin-ore	Tin	Tin-ore	Tin	Tin-ore	Tin	Tin-ore
	(in thousands)							
	Pkls	Pkls	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Malay States ...	122	766	7,092	54,352	7,310	56,280	5,547	57,009
Netherlands Indies ...	1	369	6	24,395	3	25,342	...	23,429
Siam ...	9	160	426	10,052	304	10,200	195	9,694
Other Countries ...	...	58	14	3,462	4	3,937	3	3,756
Total ...	132	1,353	7,538	92,261	7,621	95,759	5,745	93,888

* Figures for 1923 are shown in thousands.

The exports of Tin in 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926 were as follows:—

	1923		1924		1925		1926	
	Pkls	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
	(000's)	(000's) \$		(000's) \$		(000's) \$		(000's) \$
United Kingdom ...	169	17,578	16,335	33,964	13,970	30,815	11,101	26,785
United States of America ..	803	81,737	46,194	97,620	45,120	99,895	44,513	108,013
Other Countries ...	202	20,402	18,163	37,593	20,004	44,519	20,726	50,743
Total ...	1,174	119,717	80,692	169,177	79,094	175,229	76,340	185,541

The imports of Para Rubber amounted to nearly 280,000 tons. Of this quantity 128,000 tons came from the Malay States, an increase of 28,000 tons, the value of which however was 219 million Dollars, or 13 million Dollars less than the corresponding figure for 1925. The Netherlands East Indies and other foreign countries contributed about 151,000 tons, a decrease of about 8,000, the value of which was nearly 68 million Dollars less than that of the 1925 imports from this source.

Out of the total quantity of Para Rubber exported, the United States of America took nearly 196,000 tons, being 6,000 tons more than in 1925, but they paid over 73 million Dollars less for it. The United Kingdom took about 14,000 tons more than in 1925, or an increase of about 75 per cent, the value being 10 million Dollars above the figure for the preceding year. Other countries also took collectively about 5,000 tons more, but paid 12 million Dollars less.

The imports of Tin Ore decreased by 1,870 tons and Tin by a similar quantity.

The exports of refined metal decreased by 2,750 tons in quantity but advanced by 10 million Dollars in value.

Imports of Cotton Piece Goods dropped by 20 million yards or, in value, by \$5,000,000.

Other imported articles which showed an increase in value are Rice, Fish dried and salted, Milk, Motor Cars, Motor Spirit, Copra, Pepper and Rattans; but decreases were recorded in the value of Cigarettes, Arecanuts, Sugar, Kerosene, Sago and Gunnies.

The re-export trade in the above commodities was similarly affected.

The export of canned pineapples decreased by 1,400 tons in quantity and by 411,000 Dollars in value.

The following table shows the value of the merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom, Australia, countries in the Continent of Europe, the United States of America, and Japan:—

		IMPORTS				EXPORTS				
		1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	
		(000's)								
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
United Kingdom		8,253	9,050	12,346	13,338	7,516	8,457	12,700	13,130	
Australia and New Zealand ...		1,597	1,620	1,990	1,679	503	1,236	3,077	4,705	
Austria	Continent of Europe.	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Belgium		...	206	271	313	497	203	164	278	250
Denmark		...	103	104	71	108	571	406	224	298
Fiume		1	1
France		...	509	705	848	1,388	2,679	3,202	4,339	3,797
Germany		...	581	610	923	1,454	1,222	1 274	2,764	1,797
Holland		...	429	582	895	1,004	1,314	1,891	3,189	3,186
Italy		...	490	617	1,100	1,725	1,228	1,434	2,046	1,650
Norway		...	225	113	88	53	11	23	19	17
Sweden		...	28	77	68	60	66	142	180	268
Spain	...	8	4	9	15	341	445	440	414	
Russia	...	11	3	1	...	...	...	17	6
Other European countries	...	...	...	4	25	...	..	...	8
United States of America	...	2,041	2,541	3,324	3,616	29,381	31,765	63,084	56,397	
Japan	...	2,110	1,919	3,471	4,036	3,275	2,902	4,100	4,420	

From the above table it will be seen that the value of the Import Trade from twelve of the countries mentioned increased. In the case of Japan the increase is accounted for by the value of coal imported. Imports from Norway and Sweden show a decrease. The exports to nearly all countries were less than in 1925.

United Kingdom.—The value of a number of articles imported from the United Kingdom increased, the principal being motor vehicles, malt liquors, woollen cloth, motor vehicle tyres, agricultural implements, and biscuits.

The export value of Para Rubber, Pepper and Illipinuts increased; but decreases are shown in nearly all the other principal articles of produce.

United States of America.—The principal imports from the United States of America which showed increases in value were Petroleum and Galvanised Iron; Motor Cars and Cigarettes showed a decrease.

There was a rise in the export value of Copra, Tin and Gutta Inferior, but a decline in that of Para Rubber.

Japan.—The principal articles of import which showed an increase were Coal, Rubber Cases and Dried Fish; and among exports Rubber and Tin.

Netherlands East Indies.—A diminution in the value of trade with the Netherlands East Indies was accountable to the variation in the quantity and value of rubber received from there:—

<i>Imports</i>				<i>Exports</i>			
1923	1924	1925	1926	1923	1924	1925	1926
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(000,000's)				(000,000's)			
\$194	\$227	\$397	\$361	\$78'9	\$83'6	\$113'2	\$112'3

Among imports Pepper, Coal, Timber, Copra, Illipinuts, Motor Spirit showed increased value; and among exports Rice, Dried Fish and Milk.

Continent of Europe.—A slight increase was registered in aggregate trade with the Continental nations.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

During the year 61 new Companies were registered, with a capital of \$30,085,600 of which 46 were private Companies, with a capital of \$13,085,600.

At the end of the year 456 Companies remained on the register of which 53 were in liquidation; the total subscribed capital of the 390 Companies carrying on business was \$177,294,095.

Five hundred and one Companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these, 387 are British, 27 are Japanese, 30 are Dutch, 2 are German and 28 are incorporated in the United States of America, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. Apart from these, 15 Companies—all British—have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 5 foreign Companies. Sixty-eight Companies do Fire Insurance business.

Bankruptcies

There were 51 trade bankruptcies of which 44 were Chinese. In 26 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In three cases liabilities exceeded \$100,000, in 7 cases \$50,000 and 12 other cases \$10,000.

One Deed of Arrangement was registered.

(c) FORESTS

The area of reserved forests was increased by about 306 acres on a resurvey of Bukit Sedanan Reserve in Malacca. The total area of reserved forests is now 111,477 acres, equivalent to 11.55 per cent of the total area of the Colony. As a result of an examination of the Singapore forests it was decided not to abolish the reserved forests, but to develop the mangrove areas, and to utilise the non-mangrove areas for the growing of food products by squatters under arrangements to be made by the Conservator of Forests and the Commissioner of Lands, Singapore. It was also agreed that a Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests should be appointed to Singapore.

Revenue and expenditure were \$58,259 and \$53,400 respectively, compared with \$47,982 and \$56,318 in 1925, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowances. There was, therefore, a surplus of \$4,859 compared with a deficit of \$8,336 in 1925. Revenue rose in Malacca and fell in Singapore, Penang and Dindings.

The out-turn of timber was 10,819 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 35,870 tons, compared with 25,016 and 28,441 tons in the previous year.

Minor forest produce yielded a revenue of \$3,804, compared with \$4,059 in 1925.

Breaches of the forest law were reported to the number of 125, but in 44 cases the offenders were undetected. Fines inflicted in court amounted to \$748 and compensation to the amount of \$276 was awarded for damage to the forests.

(d) AGRICULTURE

Rubber.—When the year opened, the shortage of supplies of rubber was continuing to keep the price at the unusually high figure to which it had risen at the close of the previous year, so that Standard Smoked sheet on the Singapore market stood at \$1.54 per lb. The price declined steadily, however, during the first two months of the year and had fallen to 85 cents per lb. by the end of February. During March it rose again to \$1.08 per lb. in the third week, but thereafter declined steadily to 65 cents per lb. at the beginning of May. It subsequently continued steady between 65 and 73 cents per lb. until the middle of November when there was a further slight decline of about 5 cents per lb., the price closing at 65 cents per lb. at the end of the year. The exportable allowance of standard production was increased from 85 to 100 per cent on the 1st February. It remained at 100 per cent until the end of October, but, since the average price for the Restriction quarter ending with that month was below 1s. 9d. in London, it was reduced to 80 per cent for the quarter commencing on the 1st November.

The average price realised for rubber during the year was sufficient to maintain all properties in good order and to yield a profit to owners or shareholders. Many of the smaller holdings are now reasonably tidy and free from excess of undergrowth; there has been a further considerable improvement in the condition of those in the Dindings.

The first four months of the year were remarkably hot and dry, causing the most thorough and simultaneous "wintering" (annual leaf fall) of the rubber trees throughout the Peninsula that has been seen for several years. This had a beneficial effect in checking Mouldy Rot Disease (*Sphaeronema fimbriatum*), both in Malacca, and

in the two localities where it had recently appeared in Province Wellesley. In August there was an outbreak of this disease in a new locality in Singapore Island. It spread rapidly during wet weather at the end of the year, so that inspections made in December showed that many properties in the centre and east of the Island had recently become infected. This outbreak is receiving attention. Persistent enforcement of control measures has prevented any further spread of the disease in Malacca. In Province Wellesley it disappeared entirely from one of the infected areas, but in the other, during wet weather in the last quarter of the year, it spread gradually in all directions, in spite of the activities of the Inspecting Officers. Out-breaks of Black Stripe disease (*Phytophthora sp.*) were reported from three estates in Malacca, one of which was somewhat severe. These were all successfully controlled. No other diseases of rubber trees call for comment.

Coconuts.—At the beginning of January the price of copra was \$12 per pikul (133½ lb.) on the Singapore market, but it then fell rapidly to \$11.10 at the end of the month. By the end of February it had risen again steadily to \$12.30 and it subsequently varied slightly between \$11.60 and \$12.30 until the end of July. During the remainder of the year the price showed a slow downward tendency with occasional recoveries, resulting in a closing price of \$10.10 at the end of December. The average price for the year was about \$11.80 as compared with \$11.95 in 1924 and \$12.15 in 1925. The industry has continued in the same satisfactory condition in which it has been during the last four years.

Records of yields from individual palms show the value of selection work on this crop. Palms selected as high yielders have continued to demonstrate this character convincingly.

The Black Coconut Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) has been kept well under control by routine inspections in Malacca. Similar action has resulted in a further reduction in the number of breeding grounds suitable to this insect in Province Wellesley and Penang.

On one estate in the Province there was a further outbreak of the new disease of coconuts referred to in last year's report, which is now known as the Salmon-pink Disease. The Mycologist has continued his examinations of infected palms, both from this estate and from various parts of the Peninsula and has found certain fungi associated with the somewhat variable symptoms recorded. Further

work is still necessary for the full elucidation of the cause and development of this disease, or combination of diseases, the clue to which is proving unusually elusive.

Padi.—In Penang and Province Wellesley the yield from the 1925 - 26 crop was well below the average, owing to the damage done by unfavourable weather conditions and to a less extent by pests. The Fulgorid insect, *Sogata pallescens*, which appeared so suddenly in December, 1925, disappeared as quickly in the following month, but in the interval it considerably augmented the damage already done to the late planted crop by flooding. In Malacca the 1925 - 26 crop gave a fair average return over the whole Settlement, but approximately 1,500 acres of padi were entirely destroyed by floods.

Planting operations for the 1926 - 27 season in Province Wellesley and Penang were again delayed by lack of water, the whole year having been unusually dry. Even up to the end of the first week of December, there was insufficient water in the rice fields and the plants had in consequence not made good growth. Continuous, but not unduly heavy, rains experienced for 3 or 4 days in the latter half of December caused a marked improvement, as a result of which an average crop was expected for the season. Areas totalling about 500 acres in the Northern District of the Province were flooded with water from swollen rivers and were inundated at the close of the year. It was feared that most of the padi in these areas would be destroyed. In Malacca the padi planted during the year was in a very forward condition throughout the Settlement, the water supply having been plentiful. A good average crop was expected, though about 400 acres of padi had been destroyed by floods.

In Malacca during the 1926 - 27 season caterpillars of *Nymphula depunctalis* in nurseries and newly planted fields, and the padi fly, *Leptocorisa spp.*, on young grain have been the only two insect pests of any importance. Both in Malacca and the Province rats have been very numerous and have done extensive damage. These animals have occurred in unusually large numbers this year throughout the west of the Peninsula, possibly owing to the dry weather that occurred during their main breeding season early in the year.

As was anticipated, the crop obtained at the Pulau Gadong Padi Experiment Station in Malacca for the season 1925 - 26 was below that of the previous season, mainly owing to damage done by floods and by rats which appeared

in large numbers at a time when the depth of the water rendered trapping and poisoning impracticable. The results of the experiments in progress were carefully recorded. During the 1926-27 season caterpillars of *Nymphula depunctalis* attacked nurseries and newly planted plots, necessitating the employment of suitable measures to destroy them and to stimulate the attacked plants to recover from their effects. Subsequently the padi throughout the Station looked well, until rats invaded it in very large numbers from surrounding rushes and jungle and did considerable damage, in spite of the various methods used to destroy them. All the experiments are being continued, including the selection, commenced in the previous season, of pure lines of local varieties.

The results of the manuring experiments at Pekan Darat Test Station in Province Wellesley for the season 1925-26 were carefully recorded. The crop reaped was fairly satisfactory. A portion of it, amounting to 2,425 gallons of the successful pure strain Radin 7, was disturbed for seed purposes to growers in the Province, the Dindings and parts of the Federated Malay States.

During the 1926-27 season the prevailing dry weather in the Province affected this Station equally with other padi land. Planting was late and earlier growth was poor, there being no water on the land. Rain at the end of the year saved the situation and caused a marked improvement in growth and general appearance of the padi.

Cloves.—Young clove bushes are being planted in existing gardens and several new gardens are being established in Balik Pulau district of Penang. Damage by Cerambycid borers continues.

Fruit.—In Malacca there was a heavy, mid-year crop of fruit of which considerable quantities were exported to Singapore.

Water Hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes).—The destruction of Water Hyacinth on Crown Lands was started in Province Wellesley during the year. It was found that small streams forming the sources of the Prai river were full of this weed and, in consequence, operations were commenced in one of these streams. In Malacca clumps of the weed on alienated land were destroyed, in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 16 of 1925 (Noxious Plants).

Agricultural Show.—A successful Agricultural Show, to which was attached a Trades Section, was held in Malacca on June 26th and 27th.

School Gardens.—Good progress is being made, both teachers and pupils evincing a keen interest in their gardens.

(e) LAND

(i).—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands) provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but the present policy is to restrict the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, as in Singapore, by grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In

Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99 years but there are a few leases of 999 years and a few Statutory Grants.

Occupied land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99 year leases from the Crown in the case of Estates but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for the alienation of foreshore.

Land is obtainable without premium if held under customary tenure. Land to be held under Grant or Lease is generally sold by auction. The principal land Revenue consists of rents on Grants or Leases and of Mukim Assessment on land held under Customary tenure.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE

The Revenue in 1925 and 1926 was thus distributed:—

—		Land Revenue.	Reimburse- ments.	Land Sales.	Total.
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Singapore	1925	349,337	26,079	56,514	431,930
	1926	376,364	43,800	70,673	490,837
Penang	1925	227,089	26,835	416,341	670,265
	1926	243,882	29,030	12,453	285,365
Malacca	1925	610,997	8,014	70,488	689,499
	1926	663,685	9,213	439,407	1,112,305
Labuan	1925	4,377	1,293	217	5,887
	1926	5,164	2,793	936	8,893
Total ...	1925	1,191,800	62,221	543,560	1,797,581
	1926	1,289,095	84,836	523,469	1,897,400

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table;—

—	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
<i>Singapore</i>					
Area granted ...	731 1 07	1,730 0 04	1,355 0 27	1,059 1 29	441 1 00
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
.. Town Lots ...	84,822	123,743	46,139	12,183	13,738
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	114	64	57	41	60
Premia paid ...	\$188,476	\$131,476.00	\$70,399.00	\$87,631.00	\$71,241
<i>Penang</i>	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,689 1 28	525 3 24	1,284 1 22	1,120 3 6.45	2,134 1 11
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
.. Town Lots ...	Nil.	Nil.	155	19,901	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	394	127	146 S. Grants (& 5-99 years' Leases.)	171 S. Grants (27-99 years' Leases.) 4-30 do.	391 Statutory Grants, 10 Penang Hill Leases 25-99 years' Leases 1 10 years' Lease
Premia paid ...	\$26,555.50	\$12,978.16	\$18,464.00	\$410,795.00	\$14,165.72
<i>Malacca</i>	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,124 0 31	2,348 0 16.96	2,712 2 18.64	3,686 3 11.02	737 1 03.75
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	
.. Town Lots ..	21,600	Nil.	59,350½	Nil.	6 3 35
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	116	273	127 & 1 Lease	80 & 1 Lease	48 & 34 Leases
Premia paid ...	\$52,843.00	\$72,345.00	\$202,830.00	\$254,040.10	\$57,927
<i>Labuan</i>	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	228 3 09	59 2 35	135 0 20	146 3 00	457 3 24
.. Town Lots ...	Nil.	Nil.	0 0 24½	Nil.	0 2 01
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	Nil.	91	50	52	124
		(55 new Grants, 17 Sub-division Grants, 19 in exchange for old grants.)	(23 new Grants, 25 Sub-division Grants and 2 in exchange for old grants)	(22 new Grants, 24 Sub-division Grants and 6 in exchange for old grants),	(87 new Grants 34 Sub-division Grants and 3 issued in exchange for old grants.
Premia paid ...	\$114.90	\$49.40	\$209.20	\$217.20	\$936.75

(f) FISHERIES

The Government trawler *Tongkol* arrived in Singapore on the 2nd May, 1926. On the 28th of the same month trawling operations were commenced. Grounds have been found, where a ton of fish per day's absence from port can be caught. The average price obtained per ton of such fish has been \$336 or 20 cents per kati. Only a small portion of the vast trawlable area has as yet been tested.

The local fisheries have been troubled by unusual weather conditions, which have affected many of the fisheries of the Straits of Malacca adversely. Crustacea and shell-fish have generally been scarce and many fish, such as the pomfrets, have not been on their usual grounds in their usual abundance. The winds have not blown with their accustomed regularity and the result has often been seas unsuited to the frail craft used by the Straits fishermen. The use of power in fish-carriers is on the increase and is now no longer confined to the Japanese. A number of Chinese dealers have adopted this means of conveyance of catch from the sea to convenient markets.

III.—Legislation

Thirty-five Ordinances were passed during the year 1926. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and twenty-five were purely Amending Ordinances.

The most important of the Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances are:—

- (i) The Pensions (Gratuities) Ordinance (No. 1) which provides for the granting of gratuities with reduced pensions to persons who have been in the public service. It also provides for granting death gratuities to the estates of pensionable officers who die while in the service.
- (ii) The Postal Department Titles Ordinance (No. 7) which alters the titles of the Postmaster-General and the Assistant Postmaster-General, on account of the co-ordination of the Postal services of the Colony and of the Federated Malay States.
- (iii) The Boy Scouts Association Ordinance (No. 10) which prohibits the sale and use by unauthorised persons of badges adopted by the Association.

- (iv) The Registration of Schools Ordinance (No. 8) which consolidates and amends the law relating to the registration of schools.
- (v) The Land Officers (Powers) Ordinance (No. 11) which removes doubts as to the powers of certain Land Officers and validates the past acts of officers who, although appointed to be Collectors of Land Revenue, have not been appointed to the particular offices contemplated by certain of the Ordinances which they have administered.
- (vi) The Architects Ordinance (No. 12) which provides for the registration of architects in the Colony.
- (vii) The Emergency Regulations Ordinance (No. 22) which enables the Government to take extraordinary powers in the event of a grave local emergency arising.
- (viii) The Trust Companies Ordinance (No. 31) which provides for the registration and regulation of Trust Companies.

The Principal Amending Ordinances are :—

- (i) The Census (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which empowers the taking of a census of the inhabitants of any Settlement or of any area in any Settlement, as distinct from the whole Colony.
- (ii) The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) which requires children who have attained the age of seven years to be re-vaccinated. It also provides for compulsory mass vaccination upon the occurrence of an epidemic of small-pox in any administrative area.
- (iii) The Statute Laws (Revised Edition) Operation Ordinance (No. 6) which amends the Revised Edition of the Laws of the Colony prepared under the provisions of the Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance, 1925.
- (iv) The Fisheries (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) which provides for making rules for the better control of turtle fisheries.
- (v) The Second-hand Dealers (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14) which enables conditions to be attached to grants of exemption from the provisions of the principal Ordinance.
- (vi) The Volunteer Force (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15) which enables the Colour Service of a volunteer to be extended for any period not

exceeding four years provided that it shall not continue after the volunteer attains to forty years of age.

- (vii) The Sale of Food and Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16) which permits the importation under licence of separated or skimmed milk.
- (viii) The Agricultural Pests (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 18) which gives inspecting officers increased powers for the purpose of preventing and eradicating disease among plants.
- (ix) The Former Enemy Aliens (Disabilities Removal) Ordinance (No. 20) which removes the disabilities imposed by legislation upon former enemy aliens.
- (x) The Arms and Explosives (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 21) which includes modern engines of war in the list of articles the exportation of which may be prohibited, and gives powers of entry and search to the Chief Police Officers and to licensing officers.
- (xi) The Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 24) which imposes upon persons in charge of vehicles a duty to obey directive signs placed on public roads by order of the Chief Police Officer for the purpose of controlling traffic.
- (xii) The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 27) which limits the registration of criminals to those who are convicted of offences punishable with rigorous imprisonment for not less than two years or of such other offences as the Governor in Council may from time to time declare to be registrable.
- (xiii) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 28) which requires pilgrims journeying between the Colony and the Hedjaz to provide themselves with certificates of identity.
- (xiv) The Hospitals Board (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 29) which enlarges the Hospitals Board.
- (xv) The Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 32) which gives effect to the resolution passed by the International Convention for the suppression of the circulation of, and traffic in, obscene publications. This Ordinance adopts other amendments which have been made to the Indian Penal Code.

- (xvi) The Tobacco Duties (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 33) which provides for the continuance of the principal Ordinance which otherwise would have expired on the 31st December, 1926.
- (xvii) The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 34) which was passed in order that the law relating to labour in the two Administrations may be assimilated as far as possible.

IV.—Communications

(a) POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES

The work of the Postal and Telegraph Sections of the Post Office during the year 1926 showed a marked increase over the preceding year. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges continue to increase.

Good progress has been made with the building of the new General Post Office at Singapore.

Experiments with short wave wireless telegraphy were made during the year and the results have been satisfactory. The wireless station at Penaga (Penang) receives press telegrams daily from the station at Rugby. These telegrams are published in the leading newspapers throughout the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

The postal rates are as follows :—

	LETTERS.		POSTCARDS.		PRINTED PAPERS.
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single.	Reply.	For every two ozs.
Foreign ...	12 cts.	6 cts.	6 cts.	12 cts.	2 cts.
Imperial ...	6 "	6 "	4 "	8 "	"
Local ...	{ 2 ozs. 4 cts.	Each succeeding 2 ozs. 2 cts.	2 "	4 "	2 "

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 20,978,000, an average of 21·83 per inhabitant, as against 19·13, the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 16,274,000 as compared with 13,314,000 in 1925. The number of messages forwarded over Government Telegraph lines during the year

1926 was 626,561 as compared with 570,740 in 1925 whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph Lines was 486,005 as compared with 438,143 in 1925. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges increased from 1445 to 1707.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1926 was \$3,462,435.09, an increase of 13 per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1925. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was \$217.61. There was a profit on the year's working of \$41,755.39. The estimated present value of the investments is \$3,641,434.16. These figures are subject to revision after audit.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices, at Penang, Malacca, and Labuan, there are 42 Sub-Offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Panjang and Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Tasek Glugor, Penanti, Pinang Tunggal, and Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley), Tebong (Malacca). Of these 28 are Telegraph Offices.

The operations of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1926 to \$7,934,342.95, the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands East India, Ceylon, and the United States.

Eleven Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	... 5, thence to Madras	(3)
	„ „ Colombo	(2)
	„ „ Deli	(1)
Batavia	... 2, thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	... 1, thence to Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	... 1, Direct thence to Manila	(1)
	„ North China	(1)
	„ Macao	(1)
Cochin China	... 1, thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	... 1, thence to Hongkong	(1)

There are also Government Telegraph Lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *via* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. There are 228 $\frac{3}{8}$ miles of Telegraph Lines, 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of submarine cable between Penang and Province Wellesley containing 112 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of wire and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles between Singapore and Johore containing 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of wire. There are 2,326 miles of Telephone Line in

Penang and Province Wellesley and 1,656 miles in Malacca. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office. There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony situated at Paya Lebar (Singapore) and Penaga (Penang) respectively. The station at Paya Lebar communicates with fixed stations at Kuching (Sarawak) and Christmas Island and with ships. The Penaga Station communicates with Rangoon and with ships.

(b) COMMUNICATION BY SEA

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly, alternately by British India Steamers *viâ* Rangoon, Calcutta and Bombay homewards, *viâ* Bombay and Negapatam outwards, and by the Peninsular and Oriental vessels; and fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon. In addition there is a weekly service to Europe by the Steamship Company Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd alternately, and a service at frequent intervals by Holt, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines. With China and Japan there is fortnightly communication by the P. & O. and M. M. lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes and the Societe des Affreteurs Indo-Chinois, and monthly by Chargeurs-Reunis; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong frequently, and direct by Spanish Packets, Steamship Co. Nederland, and British Packets occasionally; with Bangkok frequently by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Netherlands India ports frequently by steamers of the Netherlands India Company's Steamship Co., and of the Nederland's and Rotherdam Lloyd Co.; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philp, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australian Steam Navigation Company, Austral East Indies Line, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence by Orient Packets: with Madras (direct) and other ports on the Coromandel Coast fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers, and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 22 to 24 days.

(c) RAILWAYS

A railway traverses the island of Singapore and connects, by a causeway across the Johore Straits which was opened for traffic in October, 1923, with the peninsular system, thus affording rail communication with Johore, the Federated Malay States, Malacca, Province Wellesley, Penang, Kedah, Perlis and Siam.

(d) ROADS

The metalled Roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) measure 529·5 miles, distributed as follows:—

Singapore	...	...	...	100·2
Penang and the Dindings	...	...	...	96·2
Province Wellesley	...	...	...	172·9
Malacca	...	...	...	152·2
Labuan	...	...	...	8·0

Of the 529·5 miles of metalled road 293 miles are now treated with asphalt.

In addition to the metalled roads there are 257 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path maintained in the various Settlements.

The resurfacing of all metalled roads with granite was continued a further 4 miles in Singapore, 3·5 miles in the Dindings, 0·3 miles in Province Wellesley, 9·9 miles in Malacca and 0·9 miles in Labuan.

(e) PUBLIC WORKS

No large works were finished in Singapore during the year but good progress was made with the New Post Office and New General Hospital, and a New Mental Asylum was commenced some five miles beyond the outskirts of the town.

In Penang the New English School at Green Lane was finished, and that at Bukit Mertajam, Province Wellesley was also completed. The Water Supply Works for the Penang Hill are well in hand.

In Malacca a New Rest House is nearly complete, substantial improvements to ten Vernacular Schools have been effected and the New Hospital at Jasin finished. Additional Water Works for the supply of Malacca Town have made excellent progress.

A second bucket dredger was obtained during the year and did good work in deepening the channels leading to the Singapore and Malacca Rivers.

V.—Immigration**(i) CHINESE**

The number of immigrants arriving in the Colony from China reached the record figure of 348,593, an increase of 62.3 per cent over the number for 1925 and exceeding that for 1911, the previous highest year, by 78,739 or 29.1 per cent.

Adult males formed 72.5 per cent and adult females 14.3 per cent of the immigrants.

During the year the number of emigrants returning to China was 120,308 and the excess of immigrants over emigrants was 228,285 or 65.4 per cent.

The increase was due to the continued prosperity of Malaya's major industries, the consequent strong demand for labour, and the unsettled conditions in South China.

Women and children arriving numbered 95,715 which again constitutes a record.

(ii) SOUTHERN INDIANS

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 174,795 as compared with 90,708 in 1925.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 66,164 as against 43,144 in 1925.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	—	—	—	—
Assisted Immigrants	30,234	43,147	70,198	149,414
Other Immigrants ...	19,268	18,905	20,510	25,381
	<u>49,502</u>	<u>62,052</u>	<u>90,708</u>	<u>174,795</u>

The assisted immigrants consisted of 127,792 adults and 21,622 minors. Of the adults 98,136 were men and 29,656 were women.

The health of estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was satisfactory, the death rate in Province Wellesley being 13.56 per mille and in the Dindings 13.57 per mille. There were no deaths on the few estates in Penang.

During 1926, 2,642 adult and 563 minor decrepit or destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The assessment rate was fixed at \$4 for the whole year.

The Indian Immigration Fund receipts amounted to \$3,042,986.09 and the expenditure was \$3,624,057.64, the difference being met by a corresponding decrease in cash balances.

(iii).—NETHERLANDS INDIAN

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 3,165. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force.

VI.—Criminal and Police

STATISTICS

The total number of seizable offences reported to the Police during 1926, was 5,497 of which 5,331 were admitted as true.

Of the admitted reports convictions were obtained in 1,609 cases, and 135 cases awaited trial in 1927. Under the heading of "serious offences against the person" there was a decrease of 11 in the number of murders, but an increase of 134 reports of hurt caused by dangerous weapons. As regards offences against property there was an increase of 41 in the number of robberies, an increase of 2 in the number of gang robberies, a decrease of 57 in the number of reports of housebreaking and a decrease of 360 in the number of reports of theft.

There were 48,429 non-seizable offences reported to the Police in 1926. The number of persons arrested in connection with both seizable and non-seizable offences was 23,069 males and 450 females. There was a decrease of 42 in the number of extortions.

SECRET SOCIETIES AND CRIME

The feud between Tiu Chiu factions continued in Singapore during January. Combined work by the Protectorate and the Police resulted in the arrest of a considerable number of men. A settlement by the parties concerned ended the trouble. Since then Tiu Chius have not caused anxiety except for a brief period during the 7th moon celebration. There was a certain amount of inter-society fighting on the Hokkien side in February and March and again in October. Internal disputes were the cause. Fighting did not attain serious dimensions.

Trouble caused by Cantones societies was the feature of the year. As in the case of the Tiu Chiu trouble the use of firearms was general and indiscriminate. From

April to June an old feud between two groups was revived and there were several serious affrays in which firearms were freely used. The trouble ceased with the killing of a gunman in Sago Street in June, following a fight with a detective patrol.

Other groups increased the public alarm by a series of armed gang robberies in which murder was committed.

By August nearly half of those concerned, including some of the most dangerous, had been arrested. There was no recrudescence.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,152 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang and Malacca); 2,572 were admitted during the year as compared with 3,474 during 1925 and 2,750 were discharged during the year. Nine hundred and seventy-four remained at the end of the year. There were 134 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 342 were admitted and 440 were discharged. Of the 440 vagrants discharged 122 found employment and 260 were repatriated.

“Middle-grade” prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

The “Upper-grade” men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the “Lower-grade” men at husk-beating, and the “Short-sentence” and “Revenue-grade” men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Medical Department

A. VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

The population of 1926 is estimated on that of the Census of 1921. The distribution is:—

	<i>Estimated</i> 1925.	<i>Estimated</i> 1926.
Singapore	... 497,277	517,082
Penang	... 319,979	324,316
Malacca	... 177,010	184,437
Total	... 994,266	1,025,835

PUBLIC HEALTH

The number of births registered during the year was 33,694 and the number of deaths 32,633. The deaths exceeded the births in Singapore and Penang. Exceptionally hot and dry weather was experienced from March to August and led to a great increase in deaths from Malaria and Pneumonia and to a rise in the infantile mortality.

The percentage of males born was 54.12. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 53.98 per thousand amongst Chinese.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 205.47 per thousand births as against 184.62 in 1925, and 204.76 in 1924.

The number of deaths registered as from infantile convulsions (deaths of children under one year) was 4,783 as against 3,648 and 3,832 in the two previous years: Dietetic errors, tetanus and malaria are common causes of convulsions.

The crude death-rate 31.81 per thousand, though below the average of 32.35 per thousand for the last 10 years, was the highest since 1920: the death-rate for 1925, 27.26 per thousand was the lowest on record.

Malaria was responsible for 6,452 deaths as against 4,209 in 1925, while fever unclassified accounted for 2,662 deaths against 2,276 in 1925.

The increased prevalence of malaria was due to the deficient rainfall which left many anopheline breeding grounds unflushed, enabling the larvæ to come to maturity.

The highest death-rate in any month was 39.04 in June. With the advent of sufficient rain in September, the death-rate dropped to 28.99 and 29.72 in the last 2 months of the year.

In 1911 which approached 1926 in dryness, the death-rate for the year was 46.46 per thousand. But for the preventive measures which have been steadily carried out since 1920, the death-rate might have been considerably higher.

Two thousand six hundred and ninety deaths were due to Tuberculosis against 2,624 in the previous years.

Pneumonia caused 2,568 deaths against 2,009 in 1925: only 210 deaths were recorded as due to influenza.

Beri-beri accounted for 1,098 deaths as against 957, 904 and 1,388 in the years 1925, 1924 and 1923.

Dysentery caused 1,015 deaths classified as follows:—

Dysentery, Amœbic	...	...	280
„ Bacillary	...	...	293
„ Unclassified	...	...	442
Total			1,015

as against 855 deaths in 1925.

Infectious Disease.—There were 16 deaths from small-pox, 13 deaths from Cholera, 7 deaths from Plague and 6 deaths from Cerebro-spinal Fever, excluding deaths in Maritime Quarantine Stations.

B. HEALTH BRANCH

PORT HEALTH

One thousand six hundred and fifty visits were paid to ships in Singapore and 885 visits to ships in Penang, by Port Health Officers, who examined 832,972 persons. One hundred and sixty-four thousand five hundred and seventy persons were retained under observation in the two quarantine stations, mostly for short periods.

The number of persons from ships treated for dangerous infectious diseases in the Singapore Quarantine Station was 103 for Cholera and 57 for Small-pox; and in Penang, 89 for Cholera, 5 for Small-pox and one for Cerebro-spinal Fever.

RURAL CONSERVANCY

The Health Officers in each Settlement continued to supervise the sanitation and conservancy in rural area.

ANTI-MALARIAL WORK

The sum of \$206,783.89 was spent on anti-mosquito and anti-malarial measures in a general reduction of all harmful mosquitoes. Many areas formerly malarious are becoming free from this disease. The chief item of expenditure has been permanent drainage.

C. KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

The total number of licentiates of the College at the end of the year was 199 and the number of students 102.

The new College was opened by His Excellency the Governor on 13th February, 1926, in the presence of a large gathering representative of all nationalities.

Colonel R. A. NEEDHAM, C.I.E., travelling inspector of the General Medical Council, made a visit of inspection to the College in December.

D. HOSPITALS

The new General Hospital, Singapore, with accommodation for 800 patients, was opened by His Excellency the Governor on 29th March, 1926. The new District Hospitals at Jasin and Alor Gajah in Malacca, were also occupied during the year. Sixty-eight thousand and fourteen in-patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony, against 58,490 in 1925: the death-rate was 8.42 per cent against 7.26. The malaria admissions and deaths were more than double those of the previous year. The figures are—1925, 7,166 admissions, 431 deaths—1926, 14,293 admissions and 984 deaths.

Admissions for venereal disease were 5,371 with 115 deaths.

E. DISPENSARIES

Out-patients numbered 159,903 and attendances 312,090 as against 154,420 out-patients and 273,841 attendances in 1925.

Out-patients treated for venereal diseases were 22,245 as compared with 20,089 in 1925 and the attendances, which showed a large increase, were 54,090.

The number of out-patients treated for Yaws was 8,358 as against 15,133. This disease is steadily decreasing owing to widespread and effective treatment of the sufferers.

The attendances at the Women's and Children's Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, were 32,247 compared with 26,904 in 1925.

The number of cases treated by the travelling motor dispensary in Province Wellesley, was 19,471 as against 8,639, and by the travelling motor dispensary in Malacca, 8,369 as against 9,417 in 1925.

F. LEPERS

The total number of lepers treated in the Leper Asylums was 1,022 and the total deaths 131 as against 1,085 treated and 143 deaths in 1925.

With the continuance of modern treatment, the death-rate has been halved since 1920.

G. MENTAL DISEASES HOSPITAL

Eight hundred and thirty-four male and 199 female lunatics were treated during 1926 in these institutions. The number remaining at the end of the year was 588 males and 135 females.

The New Mental Diseases Hospital on Trafalgar Estate, which is in course of erection, will be completed in 1928.

VIII.—Education

There were 17 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 6,995 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was \$848,697.

There were 29 Aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 14,746 pupils. The grants paid by Government in aid of these schools amounted to \$753,133.

The expenditure on the 212 Government Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 17,719 was \$431,063.

Excluding Chinese Vernacular Schools there were 12 Aided Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 1,438, the grants to which for 1926 amounted to \$14,936.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,397 as against 1,344 in 1924 and 1,499 in 1925.

Fourteen students passed the final third year examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, compared with 32 in 1925.

There were 12 student teachers from English Schools in Malaya studying at Hongkong University at Government expense. On their return they are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided Schools. As soon as Raffles College is opened in Singapore, student teachers will be trained in the Colony.

Fifteen candidates entered for the two Queen's Scholarships, revived in 1924 for boys or girls, chosen at a special competitive examination conducted by the Cambridge Delegates and approved by a selection Board, to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. Two candidates from Penang passed as fit in the opinion of the examining body to study for an honours' degree at Oxford or Cambridge. One proposes to study Law and the other Engineering.

The European Staff list showed a number of vacancies throughout the year chiefly as a result of the creation of supernumerary appointments to provide for officers going on leave and for officers seconded to Kedah and Johore.

During the year four European Masters, appointed to the Malayan Educational service, were allocated to the Colony. Two officers retired on reaching the age limit. Five new European Mistresses were allocated to the Colony.

The appointment of an Art Master for Singapore and of a Physical Instructor for the Colony has led to continued improvements in these important branches of the school curriculum.

A new elementary Government English School for 480 boys was opened at Teluk Kurau, Singapore.

A new secondary Government English School for Bukit Mertajam, Province Wellesley, was completed at the end of the year.

The building of a new Government Girls' School for Singapore was commenced.

The medical inspection of schools and pupils and instruction in hygiene are improving public health.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continued to satisfy a local want. In the last term the total enrolment was 436. Instruction was given in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Mechanics, Mechanical and Survey Drawing, Building Construction, Electricity and Magnetism, and General Science. The science classes attracted a larger and better class of students than in former years. Nineteen students passed the examination of the London Chamber of Commerce held in November, 1925 and twenty-one passed the examination of May, 1926.

The Sultan Idris Training College for Malay Vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The Colony defrayed one-third of the expenditure, paying the sum of \$39,768.

The Colony's total expenditure in connection with Chinese Schools was \$13,023.

At the close of the year registered Chinese Schools numbered 325 with 20,150 pupils.

Two Chinese schools in Singapore received grants-in-aid during 1926 amounting to \$1,967; in Penang three received grants amounting to \$11,159.

Raffles College.—The accounts at the end of 1926 showed \$1,579,928 to the credit of the General Fund and the funds of Buildings and Scholarships. The Colony is contributing \$1,000,000 towards the cost of building. Annuities in perpetuity amounting to \$63,000 have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years have been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates.

Considerable progress has been made in the building of the Principal's and Professors' houses, a Hostel and the Science and Administration Blocks, which it is hoped will be completed by the end of the year 1927.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The financial position of the Colony remained satisfactory. The aggregate value of Trade for the year was approximately the same as in 1925, a record year. This is noteworthy in view of the large decrease in the aggregate value of the trade in Rubber.

Restriction of Rubber exports was in force throughout the year. The average price realised was satisfactory.

The year was remarkable for the large influx of Chinese immigrants, due to the prosperity of Malaya and the demand for labour. Arrivals of Indian immigrants were also in excess of previous years.

Unusually dry weather was experienced in the early part of the year and resulted in increased mortality. At the close of the year the rains were exceptionally heavy.

The Honour of Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George was conferred upon Mr. W. PEEL, Resident Councillor, Penang, and Mr. R. O. WINSTEADT, D. LITT., Director of Education.

In June, Mr. W. PEEL, C.M.G., was appointed to be Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, and was succeeded as Resident Councillor, Penang, by Mr. R. SCOTT. Mr. MEADOWS FROST, M.C., succeeded Mr. SCOTT as Resident Councillor, Malacca.

Mr. HAYES MARRIOTT, C.M.G., continued to officiate as Colonial Secretary throughout the year.

E. C. H. WOLFF,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements

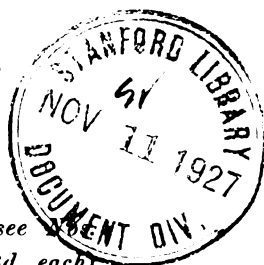
SINGAPORE, 2nd June, 1927.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1346.

ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE

REPORT FOR 1926.



For Reports for 1924 and 1925 see Nos. 1254 and 1312, respectively (Price 6d. each).



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 6d. net.

58-47-0-26.

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
I. GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL	3
II. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	3
III. GOVERNMENT FINANCE:—	
(i) Revenue and Expenditure	5
(ii) Taxation	5
(iii) Currency	5
(iv) Assets and Liabilities	6
(v) Public Debt	6
IV. ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY:—	
(i) Imports and Exports	6
(ii) Agricultural Industries	7
V. LEGISLATION	8
VI. EDUCATION	9
VII. COMMUNICATIONS:—	
(i) Shipping	10
(ii) Roads and Bridges	11
(iii) Postal	12
VIII. PUBLIC WORKS	13
IX. METEOROLOGY	14

ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1926.

I.—Geographical and Historical.

The Island of Zanzibar is situated in 6° S. latitude and is separated from the mainland by a channel 22½ miles across at its narrowest part. It is 53 miles long by 24 broad (maximum measurements) and has an area of 640 square miles.

To the north-east, at a distance of 25 miles, lies the Island of Pemba, in 5° S. latitude. It is smaller than Zanzibar, being 42 miles long by about 14 broad (maximum measurements) and has an area of 380 square miles.

In the year 1890 the supremacy of British interests in the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba was recognised by France and Germany, and they were declared a British Protectorate in accordance with conventions by which Great Britain waived all claims to Madagascar in favour of France and ceded Heligoland to Germany.

In 1891 a regular Government was constituted with a British Representative as First Minister. In 1906 the Imperial Government assumed more direct control over the Protectorate and reorganised the Government. In 1911 Seyyid Ali abdicated the throne and was succeeded by the present ruler, Seyyid Khalifa bin Harub, K.C.M.G., K.B.E. On the 1st July, 1913, the control of the Protectorate was transferred from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office, legal effect being given to the change of administration in the following year.

II.—General Observations.

The most important event of the year was the constitution of Executive and Legislative Councils for the Protectorate, under authority of the Zanzibar Councils Decree, 1926.

The first meeting of the Executive Council was held on the 2nd March and was presided over by His Highness the Sultan.

The first session of the Legislative Council was inaugurated, with ceremony, by His Highness on the 5th of March, and in the course of a speech His Highness said :—

“ We are anxious that Our subjects and the other residents in Our dominions should be more closely associated with, and should be given a greater share in, the Government of Our country than has hitherto been the case. We have accordingly informed His Majesty's Government that it is Our wish that a Legislative Council should be established; and We think that in the future this event will be regarded as one of the most important that has occurred in the history of Zanzibar.”

The British Resident, in his presidential address, communicated the following message from the Secretary of State for the Colonies :—

“ I shall be glad if you will inform His Highness the Sultan that I view with much appreciation his decision to grant the people of his dominions an opportunity of taking part in the conduct of their affairs, in accordance with modern constitutional practice. The enactment of the Councils Decree marks a definite advance in the development of Zanzibar, and I shall follow the proceedings of the Councils with interest. I am confident that under His Highness's directions, and with your guidance, the experiment will be justified by its effect on the general welfare of the Protectorate ”;

and in welcoming the Members to the first session said :—

“ The occasion is one of great interest to all the inhabitants of this Protectorate, and I am confident that you would wish me to preface my remarks with an expression of our gratitude to His Highness the Sultan for authorising the establishment of this Honourable Council, and to His Majesty the King Emperor and to His Majesty's Government for the constitutional provisions which make that establishment possible. This Council has now been called into being and is entrusted, subject to His Highness's assent, with the power to make laws to provide for the administration of justice, the raising of revenue, and generally for the peace, order, and good government of His Highness's dominions and of all His Highness's subjects therein.”

The first Conference of East African Governors, which marks an epoch in the history of British Administration in East Africa, assembled at Nairobi in January. The members of the Conference were: the Governor of Kenya (Chairman), the Governors of Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Uganda, and Tanganyika, the British Resident of Zanzibar, and the Civil Secretary of the Sudan Government. Many subjects of common interest to the territories represented were discussed and various resolutions with a view to the inauguration of common action were passed.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance was made public in August. Its chief recommendations were that the ordinary medium of circulation should remain the currency note and the silver rupee, and that the stability of the currency in terms of gold should be secured by making the currency directly convertible into gold, but that gold should not circulate as money; that the necessity of unity of policy in the control of currency and credit for the achievement of monetary stability involved the establishment of a central banking system; and that the stabilisation of the rupee should be effected forthwith at a rate corresponding to an exchange rate of 1s. 6d.

The health of the Protectorate as a whole was satisfactory during the year, with the exception of Zanzibar Town, where the death-rate was unusually high owing to considerable sickness among the native population, chiefly due to febrile (probably malaria), intestinal, and respiratory complaints. Smallpox broke out in September. By the end of the year, 52 cases with 22 deaths had been reported. There were also eight cases of typhoid fever, with one death.

Mr. A. C. Hollis, C.M.G., C.B.E. (now Sir Claud Hollis, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.) was absent on leave from the 10th March to the 1st October, during which period Mr. E. Costley-White, O.B.E., acted as British Resident. Mr. R. H. Crofton acted as Chief Secretary until the 10th August, when he proceeded on leave. Mr. J. T. Gilbert acted as Chief Secretary from that date until the 1st October.

III.—Government Finance.

(i) REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Protectorate for the last five years:—

					<i>Revenue.</i> <i>Thousands.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i> <i>Thousands.</i>
					£	£
1922	...	...	...	...	426	509
1923	...	...	...	...	589	480
1924	...	...	...	...	493	452
1925	...	...	...	...	578	543
1926	...	...	...	...	449	650

(ii) TAXATION.

The import duties on spirits were increased from Rs.15 to Rs.25 per gallon of proof spirit; on wines from 10 per cent. *ad valorem* to rates varying between Rs.2 and Rs.6 per gallon; and on beer from 10 per cent. *ad valorem* to Rs. 1.25 per gallon.

(iii) CURRENCY.

The silver rupee of British India, of the standard weight and fineness enacted in the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, is the standard coin of the Protectorate.

All other silver coins of British India, of the standard weight and fineness enacted in the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, are legal tender for the payment of an amount not exceeding Rs.5.

Seyyidieh copper pice are legal tender, at the rate of 64 pice to one rupee, for the payment of an amount not exceeding one rupee.

There is a Government note issue of the denominations, Rs.5, 10, 20, 50, 100, and 500. The value of notes in circulation on 31st December amounted to Rs.30.37.440. The security held against the issue consists of cash to the approximate sum of 60 per

cent., and of Colonial and Indian Government securities to the approximate amount of 40 per cent. of the value of notes in circulation.

(iv) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Thousands.

	£
Balance of assets on 31st December, 1925 ...	675
Deficit, 1926	200
Balance of assets on 31st December, 1926 ...	475
Loan to Kenya Colony and Protectorate ...	200

(v) PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt amounts to, £100,000 in 3 per cent. debentures, which were issued to the British public in 1899 under authority of the Loan Decree, 1899. 2½ per cent. of the nominal value of the issue is appropriated annually from general revenues to a sinking fund for the extinction of the debt. The amount at the credit of the sinking fund on 31st December was £100,976, which is invested mainly in Colonial Government securities.

IV — Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry.

(i) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

During 1926 the foreign trade of the Protectorate amounted to 121,000 tons, valued at Rs.4,82,91,533, being a decrease of 3.9 per cent. in weight, and 18.43 in value, as compared with the previous year.

The total imports (including goods directly transhipped, bullion and specie, and goods imported on Government account) amounted in value to Rs.2,45,03,269 and weighed 77,000 tons, this being a decrease of 10.93 per cent. in value and of 3.8 per cent. in weight as compared with 1925.

The total exports (including transshipment goods, bullion and specie, and re-exports) amounted to 44,000 tons weight, valued at Rs.2,37,88,264, being a decrease of 4.3 per cent. in weight and 21.86 per cent. in value as compared with 1925.

Balance of Trade.

The following statement shows the value of imports into, and exports from, the Protectorate during the year under review :—

	<i>Rupees.</i>
Total imports	2,33,25,545
Value of Government imports	11,77,724
Total trade imports	2,45,03,269
Domestic exports and re-exports	2,37,88,264
Excess of exports and re-exports over trade imports	7,15,005

The following table shows the balance of trade, as represented by the excess in the value of exports over that of imports during the quinquennial period 1922-1926:—

Year.	Exports.		Imports.		<i>Excess of Exports over Imports.</i>		Percentage.
	Rs. 000s.		Rs. 000s.		Rs. 000s.		
1922 ...	3,04,15	...	2,84,04	...	20,11	...	7'08
1923 ...	3,42,06	...	2,91,45	...	50,61	...	17'36
*1924 ...	2,91,11	...	2,61,19	...	29,92	...	11'45
*1925 ...	2,86,89	...	2,72,70	...	14,18	...	5'20
*1926 ...	2,37,12	...	2,44,65	...	7,53	...	3'07

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table:—

Countries.	<i>Imports therefrom.</i>		<i>Exports thereto.</i>		<i>Percentage of Total Trade.</i>	
	Rs. 000s.		Rs. 000s.		1925.	1926.
India & Burma ...	73,02	...	32,33	...	28'77	21'82
United Kingdom ...	51,59	...	16,21	...	18'72	14'04
Tanganyika Territory ...	34,81	...	46,98	...	14'00	16'94
France ...	3,14	...	52,62	...	9'30	11'55
United States of America	11,20	...	25,70	...	5'62	7'64
Kenya Colony ...	6,01	...	6,88	...	3'28	2'67
Italian East Africa ...	6,62	...	2,91	...	2'25	1'97
Germany ...	4,47	...	7,41	...	2'12	2'46
Italy ...	2,30	...	6,14	...	2'11	1'75
Java ...	6,39	...	6,93	...	2'02	2'76
Japan ...	7,51	...	1,15	...	1'41	1'80

Trade Prospects.

In reviewing the trade prospects for 1926 a general restriction of business was foreshadowed, following the heavy export and import transactions effected during the preceding year. The normal reaction from this cause has been accentuated both by the fall in clove prices and by the lateness of the clove harvest. Signs are not wanting that the clove industry, as represented both by producers and dealers, is making a substantial effort to adapt itself to the lower price-level which has been imposed upon it. During the coming year, moreover, the industry will enjoy the compensation of an output considerably in excess of average dimensions. The expectation appears to be justified that a moderate recovery in all branches of trade will be realised in 1927.

(ii) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

Cloves.

The amount of cloves harvested was small, being just over 3½ lakhs of frasilas. The picking of the main crop of the 1925-26 season came largely in 1925, and the July (Masika) harvest was light. The December (Mvule) crop was late in 1926, so that the bulk will come into the 1927 returns, but the weather was good and the cloves harvested in December were of excellent quality.

* Figures for 1924, 1925, and 1926 are exclusive of silver specie.

Prices reached a lower figure than in 1925, the range being Rs.12 to Rs.19½, the latter figure being reached only in the early part of the year.

The bonus paid on bearing trees, at the rate of Rs.15 per 100 trees, amounted to Rs. 4,51,000 for Zanzibar and Pemba, as compared with Rs. 4,75,000 for 1925. The decrease is due mainly to the fact that several bonuses for 1924 were paid in 1925.

The bonus paid on young trees amounted to Rs.47,000, compared with Rs.26,000 in 1925.

Copra.

Another record was established in the export of domestic copra, the tonnage being 12,800, as against 12,500 in 1925. The figures for the last five years are as follows :—

								<i>Tons.</i>
								<i>Thousands.</i>
1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.3
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.4
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.2
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.5
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.8

The success of the copra factory at Mtoni made the extension of the experiment desirable, and at the end of the year three more factories were in course of erection.

V.—Legislation.

Of the twenty Decrees enacted during the year, five were short amending enactments.

The more important legislation is described below :—

The Zanzibar Councils Decree (No. 1) marks an important stage in the political progress of the Protectorate. It provides for the setting-up of Executive and Legislative Councils and supplies the fundamental law of the Constitution.

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Decree (No. 3) follows generally the wording of the Imperial Act.

The Reformatories Decree (No. 4) provides for the training and rehabilitation in reformatory schools of juvenile offenders.

The Mnazi Moja Decree (No. 5) was passed to regularize the boundaries and control of the sports ground, known as the Mnazi Moja, which has been dedicated to the public use.

The Land (Perpetual Succession) Decree (No. 9) provides facilities for dealings in, and perpetual succession to, land on the part of associations established for religious, charitable, recreative, and other similar purposes.

The Leprosy Decree (No. 13) regularizes the procedure in connection with the segregation and detention of persons suffering from leprosy.

The Arbitration Clauses (Protocol) Decree (No. 14) was enacted to give effect in the Protectorate to the provisions of the Protocol on arbitration clauses in commercial agreements to which the Protectorate has adhered.

The Apprentices Decree (No. 15) introduces provisions relating to apprenticeships and provides necessary procedure for settling disputes.

The Customs Management Decree (No. 16) provides for the management and regulation of the Customs, and, as far as was practicable, establishes uniformity with practice existing in the neighbouring territories.

The Customs Preventive Force Decree (No. 18) was enacted for the purpose of providing for the constitution, regulation, and control of the preventive force recently constituted.

VI.—Education.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

Post-Primary.

From the Teachers' Training School, with its three-year course, the first set of trained teachers, six in number, proceeded to take up practical work, five in Government posts and one in a grant-in-aid school. Ten new pupils were admitted to the School, making a total of twenty-one students in training.

The roll of the two-year course at the Commercial School remained at twenty (seventeen Indians and three Arabs). The course finishes early in 1927. Eight of the pupils of the first course, which finished in 1925, are now in Government service.

Primary and Elementary.

There were 110 pupils on roll at the Primary School. In the town Elementary School there were 225 pupils, and in the eleven district schools 562. Of the estimated Arab and African population of school age, 3.8 per cent. are in attendance at Government schools. Gardening and instruction in village handicrafts is a feature in the curriculum of the district schools.

Vocational Training.

In Zanzibar town there were, at the end of the year, forty apprentices under instruction in carpentry, tailoring, bootmaking and metal-work; and at Chake-Chake, in Pemba, there were seven carpenter apprentices.

During the year an Apprentices Decree was passed, and all apprentices are now legally indentured.

Police School.

In place of evening classes there are now day classes at the barracks, with separate instruction for recruits, for illiterate and semi-literate members of the force, and for bandmen.

INDIAN SCHOOLS.

There are twelve Indian schools in town, with a total roll of 1,048 boys and 634 girls. In addition, 125 boys and 64 girls receive education in Government or Mission schools, making a total of 1,871 pupils out of a total population of about 13,800 Indians resident in the Protectorate.

The two largest boys' schools receive grants-in-aid, and a girls' school is expected to qualify for a grant in 1927.

MISSION SCHOOLS.

Under the three Missions operating in the Protectorate, there are seven boys' schools and six girls' schools, with totals of 170 boys and 144 girls in attendance. Of these, 117 boys and 109 girls are Arab or African.

Each Mission also maintains adult schools, with a total attendance of 424 students.

The grant given in 1925 to the Society of the Holy Ghost, to enable twelve district adult evening schools to be thrown open in the mornings for the secular instruction of Moslem children, was discontinued, the parents having refused to allow their sons to attend.

EVENING CLASSES.

The adult evening classes conducted by the Government continue to be well attended by Africans of all occupations.

The classes for clerks were continued until December. Seven candidates passed the promotion examination and thirteen the confirmation examination.

BOY SCOUTS.

Boy scouting continues to be active. Three successful holiday camps were held. The character-forming influence of the scout work is very valuable. Morse signalling has been taken up, and a Rover section is being organized.

VII.—Communications.

(i) SHIPPING.

The total number of ocean-going vessels which called at Zanzibar during the year 1926 was 351, representing a total gross registered tonnage of 2,128,621, an increase over the previous year of 43 vessels, or 349,897 gross registered tons.

The number of coasting vessels entered and cleared during the year was 228, with a total gross registered tonnage of 106,208 tons, compared with 210 vessels, with a gross registered tonnage of 99,293, in the year 1925.

During the year, 4,863 dhows entered the port, having an aggregate tonnage of 87,696, compared with 5,049, of 89,024 tons, in 1925.

The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company, Limited, and the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, each maintain a monthly service to and from London, the former alternately via Suez and via the Cape.

Steamers of the Clan-Ellerman-Harrison Line call at Zanzibar monthly (irregular service).

A fortnightly service between Marseilles and Madagascar is provided by the Messageries Maritimes.

A three-weekly service of passenger and cargo steamers between Zanzibar and Genoa is kept up by the Compagnia Italiana Transatlantica.

The United Netherlands Navigation Company provides a good service of cargo and passenger steamers on its Holland-East Africa Line.

The British India Steam Navigation Company's m.v. "Dumra" maintains a coasting service between Lamu and Mikindani.

The Zanzibar Government steamers do regular weekly trips to Pemba and Dar-es-Salaam.

Messrs. Cowasji Dinshaw and Brothers carry on a regular coasting service from Zanzibar to Kismayu.

A monthly service of passenger and cargo steamers from Hamburg, via the Cape, and Hamburg, via Suez, one steamer each way, is kept up by the Deutsche Ost-Afrika-Linie.

A monthly passenger and cargo service from Massaua, via Aden, the Italian Benadir ports, and Kenya to Zanzibar and back is provided by the Compagnia Italiana Transatlantica.

The Prince and Ellerman Line of steamers maintain a service (irregular) from the United States (New York) to Zanzibar.

The British India Steam Navigation Company carry on a fortnightly service between Bombay and Durban, via Zanzibar.

(ii) ROADS AND BRIDGES.

A sum of £10,068 was expended on the maintenance of roads and bridges in the Protectorate.

In continuation of the extensive road programme undertaken in 1925, the section from Mahonda to Kinyasini, a distance of 4.26 miles, which was aligned in February, 1925, was completed as a metalled road by the end of July, 1926.

The labour was then transferred to the Kinyasini-Mkwajuni section. This section, 4.72 miles in length, was completed as a metalled road by the end of October.

The Kidimni-Ndagaa section, 5.21 miles, begun by the Administration in January and handed over to the Public Works Department in May, 1925, was completed as a metalled road in July, 1926.

The Dunga-Bweni section, in length 1.36 miles, which was aligned in August, 1925, and then started, was finished as a metalled road in February, 1926. A further reconnaissance as far as Mchangani was carried out in April, a distance of 4.66 miles from the end of the metalled portion at Bweni, after which the line was cleared, stumped, and formed as an earth-road to Uzini, a distance of 3.5 miles, by the Administration. On completion, the Public Works Department took over the work and extended the metalled portion a further half-mile, making a total of 1.9 miles of macadamised road from Dunga.

The Mwera-Mdo section, a distance of 4.2 miles northwards from mile 6 on the Chwaka Road, was surveyed and aligned in February. In May the route was cleared and stumped and temporary bridges were constructed over both the Kianga swamps. Actual construction began in October, and by the end of the year 37 chains of earth formation had been completed, of which 10 chains were metalled.

The Mfenesini-Mangapwani section, 7.3 miles in length, was surveyed and aligned in September, and by the end of the year 83 chains had been cleared and stumped and 46 chains of earth formation completed. This road bifurcates near Mangapwani and proceeds to Msufini.

Gulioni-Darajani Road. The embankment constructed by the Harbour Works from Gulioni to Darajani, a distance of 25 chains, was handed over to the Public Works Department for completion in October. Work began in December, and 14 chains of soling had been laid and rolled by the end of the year.

Pemba.

The existing earth-road from Kisiwani, on the Weti-Matangatwani section, to Chake-Chake was re-graded and improved and 3.56 miles of metalling completed on the soft portions of the road.

The metalling and re-alignment of the Mwembeduka section was completed with the exception of 39 chains of surfacing.

From Mwembeduka to Kengeja, a distance of 3.98 miles, an earth-road was formed, thereby providing through communication between Mkoani and Kengeja.

The section from Limbani to Mzambaraoni was begun as an earth-road and a distance of 173 chains completed. This route will shorten communication between Weti and Chake-Chake by 5 miles.

(iii) POSTAL.

During the year 1926, 442 vessels arrived and 443 sailed with mails, compared with 429 and 479, respectively, for the previous year.

A comparative statement of articles dealt with in 1925 and 1926 is given below and shows an increase of 298,635 for the year under review :—

Letter mail :—	1925.	1926.
Foreign	874,230	1,075,530
Inland	110,340	206,527
Transit	26,191	28,337
Parcel mail :—		...
Foreign	13,377	12,379
Totals	1,024,138	1,322,773

VIII.—Public Works.

Maintenance of various recurrent services cost £29,763.

Expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary amounted to £185,565, made up as follows :—

	£
Buildings	34,682
Roads and bridges...	8,288
Water supply and drainage	6,856
Harbour works	42,067
Miscellaneous works	7,621
Acquisition of land	9,243
Anti-malarial drainage	1,828
New road construction, Zanzibar	26,605
New road construction, Pemba	41,201
New road (Gulioni-Darajani)	7,174
Total	£185,565

The sum of £5,935 was spent on the maintenance of buildings.

The most important buildings constructed were :—

	£
Leper Settlement at Funzi Island	2,973
One block of flats in the Vuga road	6,382
Nursing Sister's bungalow at Weti	1,318
Court for Weti	1,074
Shed for goats and sheep	1,218
District school at Mwera	1,032
Court-house, Mkoani	990
Converting quarters into two flats	1,127
Quarters for twelve clerks	1,989
Reorganisation of Police Lines, Zanzibar	1,698
Quarters for police constables in districts	1,162
Total	£20,963

Water Supply.

The cost of maintenance of the supplies in Zanzibar, Weti, and Chake-Chake was £804. The revenue obtained from trade connections and water supplied to shipping was £2,197.

Surveys.

The cadastral survey of Zanzibar town was continued and is fast approaching completion. £1,933 was spent during the year, bringing the total to £7,183. Other work undertaken included the survey of the three townships of Weti, Chake-Chake, and Mkoani in Pemba.

Harbour Works.

Work was carried on during the year in accordance with the programme proposed by the consulting engineers as a result of Mr. Mitchell's visit of inspection in November, 1924. Fair progress was made, and progressive unit costs were kept within the estimated rates. The total estimated cost of completion and equipment of wharf and reclamation remains at approximately £400,000.

IX.—Meteorology.

Meteorological observations are taken at six stations in Zanzibar and at four in Pemba.

The rainfall recorded was as follows :—

ZANZIBAR.						<i>Inches.</i>
Zanzibar town	...	...	...	...	...	41.67
Mkokotoni	...	...	...	...	...	53.20
Selem	...	...	...	...	...	63.11
Kidichi	...	...	...	...	...	84.64
Koani	...	...	...	...	...	71.09
Chwaka	...	...	...	...	...	44.10
PEMBA.						
Banani	...	...	...	...	...	57.15
Weti	...	...	...	...	...	61.37
Mkoani	...	...	...	...	...	71.50
Fufuni	...	...	...	...	...	69.16

In Zanzibar town, rain fell on 88 days, and at Banani, Pemba, on 150 days. The maximum rainfall on any one day in Zanzibar was 3.27 inches on the 8th of November, and at Banani 4.68 inches on the 29th of April. The month of greatest rainfall in Zanzibar was November (10.26 inches), and in Pemba, April (19.04 inches).

R. CROFTON.

Acting Chief Secretary to the Government.

THE SECRETARIAT,

ZANZIBAR.

12th July, 1927.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased.

ASHANTI.
BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PRO-
TECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMEN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRI-
TORIES.
GRENADA.

HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES
UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
WEI-HAI-WEI.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS.
IRAQ.

PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN.
TANGANYIKA.
TOGOLAND.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

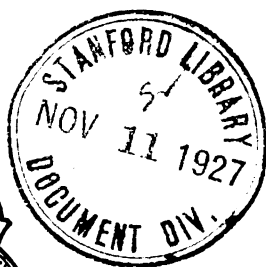
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1347.

GAMBIA.

Report for 1926.

*For Report for 1924 see No. 1249 (Price 6d.) and for
Report for 1925 see No. 1306 (Price 9d.).*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 6d. Net.

58-17-0-26

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Preface	3
I. Government Finance	4
II. Trade and Agriculture—	
(a) Trade	4
(b) Agriculture	5
III. Land and Climate—	
(a) Land	7
(b) Climate	7
IV. Education	7
V. Communications—	
(a) Shipping	8
(b) Marine Department	8
(c) Posts	9
(d) Telegraphs and Telephones	9
VI. The Protectorate	9
VII. Statistics and Sanitation—	
(a) Statistics	10
(b) Public Health	11
(c) Medical	11
VIII. Judicial—	
(a) Civil	11
(b) Criminal	12
(c) Legislation	12
(d) Police	12
(e) Prisons	13
IX. Public Works	13
X. General	14

Appendix I.—Work conducted at the Imperial Institute during the year 1926 for the Gambia.

Appendix II.—Principal Forms, etc.

Appendix III.—List of Barristers, Solicitors, and Patent Agents.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1926.

Preface.

The first descriptive account of the Gambia dates from the middle of the 15th century, when Alvise Cada Mosto, a Venetian, visited the river in charge of an expedition fitted out by Prince Henry of Portugal. He appears to have travelled some 40 miles from the mouth in 1456. The Portuguese were able to maintain a monopoly of the trade for more than a century; an English expedition, fitted out in 1481, was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for 10 years of the "free and whole traffic trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the Charter, which was made in 1591, is described in Hakluyt. The French had then traded in these parts for above 30 years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia, which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals."

The power of Portugal was, however, on the wane, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between, and the trade of the hinterland.

In the 18th century the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered Company administration was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company it was unable to make a profit, and its assets were taken over by the Crown.

Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I.—Government Finance.

The revenue and expenditure for the last four years have been :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Loan.*</i>	<i>Surplus of Assets over Loan and Liabilities.</i>
	£	£	£	£
1924	208,613	203,635	125,893	175,036
1925	189,086	271,836	113,743	104,436
1926	214,181	213,643	103,601	115,116

The excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the financial year (excluding liability on Loan Account) was £218,717, as compared with £218,179 the previous year.

Customs receipts, which represented 66 per cent. of the total real revenue of the Colony, brought in £141,003, as against £111,470 the year before. A comparison of the four chief items indicates an improvement in revenue due to the increased groundnut crop, on which the prosperity of the Gambia so largely depends.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Export Duty. Groundnuts.</i>	<i>Import Duty. Kolas.</i>	<i>Ad valorem Duties.</i>	<i>Tobacco.</i>
	£	£	£	£
1923	60,622	37,301	36,516	15,308
1924	57,572	29,231	18,867	11,172
1925	46,124	23,016	16,821	10,748
1926	56,966	32,925	23,348	11,855

II.—Trade and Agriculture.

(a) TRADE.

The following table shows the balance of trade exclusive of specie during the last three years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Aggregate.</i>	<i>Imports. c.i.f.</i>	<i>Exports. f.o.b.</i>	<i>Balance of Exports over Imports.</i>
	£	£	£	£
1924	1,563,059	669,700	893,359	223,659
1925	1,338,548	615,927	722,621	106,694
1926	1,555,303	651,137	904,166	253,029

* In 1922 the Colony borrowed £187,000 from the West African Currency Board to cover the loss sustained in the process of the demonetization of the 5 franc piece. This loan is being repaid by annual instalments, with interest.

Imports.

Cotton piece-goods show an increase in value of £47,787 over the previous year. Over 90 per cent. of them came from England.

Other cotton manufactures and cotton yarn showed an increase in value of £13,571 and £8,597, respectively, over 1925. Less rice was imported than in the previous year, owing to the excellent local crops of koos and maize, the value of the rice imported being £72,270 as against £102,171 in 1925.

Practically all the kola nuts consumed in the Gambia come from Sierra Leone. £98,473 worth of nuts were brought in during 1926 as against £74,509 worth the year before.

A slightly increased quantity of sugar was used, but the declared value was less, being £18,504 as against £21,804 for 1925.

During the year no less than five times the amount of tea imported in 1925 was supplied. This tea is bought very largely by people from neighbouring territory because, being untaxed in this Colony, it is much cheaper than elsewhere.

The British share of the import trade was better than in 1925; the percentage returns of the principal importing countries being British 60, French 25, American 4, and Dutch 3.

Exports.

Of the total value of exports, groundnuts accounted for £862,578, compared with £693,097 in 1925. Palm kernels to the value of £11,293 and hides to the value of £2,795 were the only other exports.

The only export duty is that on groundnuts, which was first imposed in 1862 at 5s. a ton, was raised in 1874 to 6s. 8d., and in November, 1920, to its present rate of £1 per ton.

The main percentage distribution of exports during the last three years has been :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>British.</i>	<i>French.</i>	<i>Dutch.</i>	<i>German.</i>
1924	55	33	4	3
1925	46	35	6	5
1926	40	26	16	14

(b) AGRICULTURE.

The total crop of groundnuts exported was 61,072 tons, of which 3,728 were exported from Saboya in French territory.

The number of strange farmers was 13,553,* as against 14,692 in the previous year.

* Figures subject to verification.

The amounts grown by the local farmers and by strangers vary from year to year, but it is significant that in 1921, with 22,045 strange farmers, the total was only 59,175 tons.

To assist the growers, the Government distributed 290 tons of seed nuts at a cost, including bags, of £5,122, the whole of which sum has been repaid during the present trade season. Compared with 1925, when 560 tons were issued on loan, it will be seen that much more seed was kept back locally for planting, and it is believed that more careful selection was exercised in the quantity reserved for this purpose.

The nuts varied in weight from $23\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per cut bushel to $28\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and from tests made it would appear that the variation was largely due to the uneven rainfall.

The average price was 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d. a bushel.

The Imperial Economic Committee on marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs produced within the Empire has drawn attention to the necessity of maintaining a high standard of purity, and progress in this direction has been the great aim of the Agricultural Department during the year.

Compulsory screening of nuts has entirely vindicated the farmers and proved that it is the traders who are responsible for adulterated produce.

The twelve seed depots have 10-acre lots fenced in round them, and field trials of groundnuts raised at headquarters have been carried out. Seven strains have been tested, of which the most promising variety is that known as Philippine White.

At Cape St. Mary Botanical Station the area devoted to ornamental and economic plants has been considerably developed during the year and lawns and grass-paths have been successfully established with Bahama grass.

Special attention has been given to the raising of fruit trees, as there is such a scarcity of fruit in the Colony; the plants being raised in kerosene tins until they develop a root system strong enough to withstand the severe conditions of the dry season.

Manurial experiments have tended to show that in dealing with Gambia soil artificial fertilizers alone will only maintain fertility for a limited period.

It has not as yet been possible to determine whether lack of humus or groundnut-soil sickness is the limiting factor.

Investigations with regard to insect and fungus pests have also been carried out. It was found that the ubiquitous white ant destroyed as much as 10 per cent. of the plants under experiment, and if a means of exterminating them could be found it would add thousands of tons to the annual crop of groundnuts.

A trial plot of sesame was raised, but its cultivation is not likely to replace that of groundnuts. Its monetary value per acre is less owing to its lower yield, but in well-drained black soil unsuited for groundnuts it could profitably be grown.

Efforts have been made during the year to revive the beeswax trade, which a hundred years ago was one of the main articles of export, 216 tons having been shipped in 1828, but the trade has now dwindled to nothing.

III.—Land and Climate.

(a) LAND.

No complete survey of the Protectorate has ever been undertaken, nor would it be possible until the personnel of the Department is increased.

Sixty-four land leases and seven wharf licences in the Protectorate, and eight leases and two licences in Bathurst have been issued during the year.

The total assessment of rates for the town of Bathurst amounted to £3,800, and all available land has been taken up; the only spaces of any extent being MacCarthy Square and the Box Bar Race Course.

(b) CLIMATE.

Rain fell on 62 days during the year and the fall was 34.93 inches at the chief recording station at Cape St. Mary, which was 18.63 inches less than in 1925. Considerable variations in rainfall are found at the river towns, the total for Georgetown being 31.47 inches, whilst that for Fattoto was 43.65.

The highest temperature in the shade was 113° F. in June at Georgetown, but October was the hottest month of the year, with a mean maximum temperature of 93° F. and a mean minimum of 75° F.

The mean relative humidity for the year was 65 per cent.

IV.—Education.

During the year there were 1,637 children on the registers of the elementary schools of the Gambia, 240 of whom attended the Mohammedan school. Annual examinations are held both for children and teachers, and 10 of the children are being taught at Government expense at the Wesleyan High School.

The total amount of Government grants exclusive of the amount of £300 allotted to the secondary schools was £1,196.

The school playgrounds are so small that it is impossible to organise games for the children, but MacCarthy Square is reserved for their use one day a week, and the annual sports in which all the schools join take place each year on Empire Day. The school that obtains the best results in the races wins for the year the flag presented by the schools of Bathurst, New South Wales.

In March the Roman Catholic school at Georgetown had to be closed down, but the building has been handed over to the Government for a Mohammedan school which is to be opened at the beginning of 1927.

V.—Communications.

(a) SHIPPING.

The total number of ships entered and cleared during the year was 552, as compared with 528 in 1925.

The following table shows the distribution of British and French and also the total tonnage for the last four years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>British.</i>	<i>French.</i>	<i>Total of all Nations.</i>
1923	593,772	100,486	1,052,982
1924	643,796	92,369	1,100,729
1925	712,052	129,668	1,097,642
1926	771,971	168,366	1,255,241

The percentage of shipping of various nationalities was : British 61, French 13, German 6, Italian 5, American 4.

The number of river craft licensed during 1926 was 395, but many of the sailing cutters are now being laid up and are being replaced by steel lighters towed by the small steamers belonging to the different firms.

(b) MARINE DEPARTMENT.

During the year the Government maintained a regular river service, which is largely patronised by the public.

The Government launches are all equipped with Kelvin engines and have been in constant use by the Departments.

The dredger " Armitage " was transferred from the Public Works to the Marine Department in January and has been employed most of the year in reclamation at Half Die.

Operations were suspended for some weeks owing to the coal strike in England and afterwards the prohibitive price of coal.

The Marine workshop has repaired Government vessels, and an increasing amount of work is being undertaken for outside firms. The African staff are getting well trained and show signs of great promise in the future.

The observation light and the buoys at the entrance of the river have given no trouble, and a new light has been placed on Bijol Island for the benefit of ships approaching Bathurst from the south. It has a thousand candle-power working on dissolved acetylene, and is timed to give three flashes every 15 seconds, with a visibility of 14 miles. The structure consists of a 50-foot steel trestle tower.

The Gambia pilot service, manned by Africans who have a thorough knowledge of the river, is now controlled by the Marine Department. The men are appointed to vessels in rotation.

(c) **POSTS.**

A considerable increase was recorded in the number of letters handled during the year, 263,957 as against 202,457 in 1925.

On the other hand, fewer parcels were received and despatched and comparatively little use is made of the money and postal order system in the Colony.

The air mail service via Dakar-Toulouse and Paris resumed operations in March and is becoming popular with the public.

181 private letter-boxes were rented by Bathurst residents.

The travelling post offices on the Government steamer enable people in the Protectorate to receive frequent mails.

The Post Office Savings Bank is moribund, the deposits having dropped to less than a thousand pounds. Those who are inclined to thrift prefer to place their money with the Bank of British West Africa.

(d) **TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.**

The stations at Basse, Kuntaur, and Georgetown sent and received 4,267 messages, as against 2,913 last year.

Communication with Dakar is still by cable, though a wireless agreement is under consideration with the Senegal authorities.

Press news from the high-power station at Rugby is received daily. Wireless receiving sets are now licensed in the Colony.

At the close of the year, 96 direct, extension, or sub-exchange telephone connections were in use in Bathurst, and there is also a telephone to Cape St. Mary.

VI.—The Protectorate.

In the 1925-26 season the merchants again joined in a participation scheme to control the price of nuts, but the opening of the 1926-27 season saw the end of it and competition has been resumed.

In the North Bank Province the village seed stores provided an ample supply of seed for planting, and in the other Provinces the village seed stores were supplemented by a Government distribution of about 300 tons.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate, though of various races, are a most law-abiding and peaceful people, and they have a system which exactly suits their requirements.

Heads of families, however, whose authority in the past no one dared to question, are beginning to find that they can no longer rely on receiving the obedience to which they have been accustomed. Young men do not find it incumbent on them to remain with their families and work for the common benefit; they want money to spend on themselves, and many leave their homes to farm in other districts or in French territory.

Amongst the so-called strange farmers only about one half are Senegalese; the others come from different parts of the Gambia.

More time has to be given to the roads owing to the increase of motor traffic.

This is especially the case in Kombo, which now has a good track from the west to the east of the Province. It was formerly impassable on account of the creeks which intersect the country, but a way has now been made round the head of the creeks, so that produce can be brought by land from the trading centres in Foni to Bathurst.

Cattle and donkeys are on the increase, but it will be many years before the country carries the head of cattle it had before the attack of contagious peri-pneumonia in 1917. Outbreaks of disease have occurred in the Niamina, Baddibu, and Saloum districts, causing serious damage, apart from the actual loss in animals, to the areas involved, because of the shortage of manure for the crops.

More Senegal sheep have come over the border than for years past. The rising franc and the ensuing change in the value of stock has brought this about, as well as the failure of pasturage in the surrounding territory on account of the light rainfall.

Manufactured articles have to a great extent ousted the old African crafts, but a revival of weaving among the Fulas and Tukulors is reported, and utensils of local make are still in some demand. It is rare now to come across a silversmith or goldsmith, as the alloy coinage and paper of the West African Currency Board is the only money in circulation.

Noxious beasts take their toll of the crops, monkeys and wild pigs being the most tiresome, whilst the hippopotamus frequents the rice farms along the river banks.

Lions are not often heard near the towns, but a male lion, shot in October at Gunjur, was said to have killed over 50 cattle.

VII.—Statistics and Sanitation.

(a) STATISTICS.

There is an estimated population of 220,000 in the Protectorate and 10,100 in Bathurst.

During the trade season the size of small places such as Kuntaur and Basse is greatly increased by people from across the frontier, but of recent years the markets at Kau-ur, Jowara, and other centres have permanently attracted many from the bush.

No reliable vital statistics are available from the Protectorate except Georgetown, where 19 births and 73 deaths were registered.

In Bathurst the birth-rate was 27.82 and the death-rate 33.16 per thousand. The infant mortality rate for the year was 356, whilst that of clinic infants was 34.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic has proved of great value.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH.

A very special watch was kept on all ships and river craft towards the end of the year owing to the wide prevalence of yellow fever in Senegal, but no case was encountered in the Gambia.

Though centres of plague infection were reported from the Azores to Lagos, the Colony and Protectorate were immune from this disease during the year, as well as from smallpox.

The water supply of Bathurst is delivered from a fenced area 15 miles away. It suffices for the present requirements of the town, which demands a normal supply of some 200,000 gallons a day.

As regards the general health of the town, which has been good during the year, a step forward will have been taken when it becomes possible to place on reclaimed ground that section of the population who have to live at present in the depressed areas which are subject to periodic flooding during the rains.

Georgetown, which has shown signs of revival since the opening of the ferries connecting it with the South Bank Province, is the cleanest town on the river.

There, as well as at Kuntaur, Basse, and Kau-ur, sanitary gangs are employed and incinerators for destroying refuse are used.

(c) MEDICAL.

The total number of cases treated in the Victoria Hospital, Bathurst, was 787. Out-patients numbered 9,219.

174 in-patients and 3,406 out-patients were treated at Georgetown.

Two new dispensaries at Basse and Kau-ur have proved of great benefit to the people, and it is hoped to add a third at Kuntaur next year.

Relapsing fever again broke out on several occasions in the South Bank Province, a part of the Protectorate where the people are poor and their resistance to disease very low.

A vaccinator is now permanently employed on the staff, and his services have been in great request.

VIII.—Judicial.

(a) CIVIL.

The Supreme Court disposed of five cases in 1926.

In the Court of Requests in Bathurst 1,061 small disputes were dealt with, and in the Protectorate 369 by the Native Tribunals.

The small number of civil actions is ascribed partly to the comparative poverty of the people and partly to the absence of the *animus litigandi* which is to be found in so pronounced a form elsewhere on the Coast.

(b) CRIMINAL.

Not only has there been an almost entire absence of serious crime within the Colony during the past year but all the criminal courts report a diminished number of small offences, and only nine persons were punished in the Supreme Court between January and December.

It is especially noteworthy that only one trader was prosecuted for fraudulent practices under the Ordinance of 1855.

In the Police Magistrate's Court in Bathurst the number of charges of a criminal or quasi-criminal nature has shown a downward curve since 1924, the figures being:—

1924.	1925.	1926.
737	549	489

The statistics of the Protectorate Courts show that 166 persons were imprisoned during the year, as against 226 in 1925.

The Judge of the Supreme Court, who reviews all sentences passed in the Protectorate, has recorded his high appreciation of the way in which all Native Tribunals, whether presided over by the Travelling Commissioner or by the Head Chief, have discharged their judicial duties.

(c) LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances and sixteen Regulations were passed during the year, the most important of which dealt with the electric light.

Motor traffic regulations have been amended owing to the increase in the number of cars and lorries.

During the year the Ordinances of the Gambia were revised and arranged under titles and chapters.

The new edition came into force by Proclamation dated 15th November.

(d) POLICE.

The better rate of pay has resulted in the re-engagement of all those who were time-expired during the year, though the Force was short of its authorised strength at the close of 1926.

The Police not only carry out the ordinary duties of constables but they also furnish armed guards, man the fire brigade, and act as warders at the Gaol. There are three Police posts in the Protectorate.

The Police band is a great asset and its public performances are much appreciated by the community.

The number of calls to fires during 1926 was six. None was of a serious nature. The new water-supply system makes a greatly increased pressure and volume of water available for fire purposes.

There are twenty-two premises in Bathurst licensed to sell liquor. They are well conducted and in the majority of cases close, except on holidays and special occasions, before the legal hour, for want of customers.

(e) PRISONS.

The number of admissions into the Gaol was 146, as compared with 281 in 1925, and the daily average of prisoners was 65, as against 96 the previous year. This marked reduction was attributed by the Prison authorities to the salutary operation of the Immigration Restriction Ordinance, 1924, and the Repatriation of Convicted Aliens Ordinance of 1924.

It was also due to the demand for labour elsewhere. The large floating population which usually drifts over the frontiers was absent. Great difficulty indeed was experienced during the trading season in loading ships.

It is from this class of casual labour that the Gaol is mainly recruited.

IX.—Public Works.

Of the four large Bathurst schemes referred to in the 1925 Report, on which over £60,000 have been spent, three are now in working order.

The new electric light and power station was opened on 24th May. It generates three-phase alternating current at 450 volts, 50 cycles per second periodicity. The total installed power is 250 kilowatts, and the main streets and buildings of Bathurst are now lit up.

During the time it has been working no trouble has been experienced either in the power-house or in the distribution system.

The total cost per unit generated for this first seven months' operation of the plant was 6.29 pence.

There is at present practically no day load on the station and the plant is therefore not run during daylight hours.

It is hoped that as the advantages of electric power become apparent the local firms will convert their various small plants, which, with the projected ice-making plant and the conversion to electrical drive of Government machinery, will provide a nucleus around which an adequate day load will be formed.

The new project for the protection of Bathurst against fire was completed and a 150,000 gallon reservoir tank has been built in the power-station yard. The booster pumps have been erected close by, and it is satisfactory to record that the mains have stood a pressure of 100 pounds to the square inch with ease.

Dredging has been carried out for the greater part of the year for the purpose of raising an area of 10 acres of tidal swamp at Half Die to a minimum elevation of seven feet above low-water level.

The output has been greatly below the designed duty on account of the stiffness of the material of the sea bottom.

This necessitates continual traversing of the induction pipe and constant shifting of the dredger itself with its attendant pipe-line of nearly half a mile in length.

As regards the slipway, tenders have been accepted and a resident engineer appointed. It has been decided to proceed without steel pile side jetties, and it is anticipated that the undertaking will be completed early in 1928.

Twelve seed-nut depots standing in fenced enclosures of 10 acres each have been erected at various sites in the Protectorate at a total cost of £6,667.

The depots are designed to hold 100 tons of seed each.

A plaque was erected on a pillar at the Abuko water works to commemorate the inauguration of the pipe-line to Bathurst during the Governorship of Sir Henry Galway.

Labour, both skilled and unskilled, was plentiful throughout the dry season and piece-work has been employed wherever possible.

X.—General.

In January a conference of the delegates of the West African National Congress was held in Bathurst.

In April a deputation of medical officers appointed by the League of Nations made a short stay.

The chief event of the year was the visit in April of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Ormsby Gore, and his staff. He inspected the various public institutions in Bathurst, received deputations, and went to James Island and the Kombo. The report of his tour, which was published as a Parliamentary Paper* in September, contains a valuable summary of the resources of the Gambia, and stresses its geographical situation as the most westerly portion of the continent and therefore the closest to the trade routes to South Africa and to South America.

Amongst the King's Birthday Honours a knighthood of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire was conferred upon the Governor, after 33 years' service in West Africa, and Membership of the Order on the Reverend Mother Joseph and the Reverend Father Meehan. The Reverend Mother Joseph belongs to the Congregation of St. Joseph of Cluny and has resided in Bathurst since 1890.

The Rev. Father Meehan of the Holy Ghost Fathers has been priest in charge since 1905. The presentations were made on Armistice Day and on that day for the first time a street collection on behalf of Earl Haig's British Legion Fund was organised, the total amount of £271 being obtained.

* Cmd. 2744.

From the first of December the business of Barclays Bank was transferred to the Bank of British West Africa.

During the year the port was visited by His Majesty's ships "Lowestoft," "Daffodil," and "Delphinium," and the cable steamer "Amber" also called.

C. R. M. WORKMAN,

Colonial Secretary.

9th June, 1927

APPENDIX I.

Work Conducted at the Imperial Institute during the Year 1926 for the Gambia.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS.

During 1926 the following investigations were carried out for the Government of the Gambia :—

Groundnuts.—A number of different varieties of groundnuts are being cultivated experimentally in the Gambia, and during the year the Director of Agriculture forwarded 12 samples of nuts which had been produced in the trials. The varieties represented were—Philippine White, Philippine Pink No. 1, Gambia No. 1 and No. 2, Mauritius, Senegal, Zaria No. 1, Dixie Giant, and Basse, together with samples from the McCarthy Island, the Upper River and the South Bank Provinces.

The yields of oil from the whole nuts ranged from 35.6 to 37.7 per cent., except in one sample (Dixie Giant) in which a rather large proportion of husk was present. The kernels furnished from 48.3 to 50.6 per cent. of oil, the yield thus exceeding in all cases the usual commercial standard of 48 per cent. The acidity of the oil was satisfactorily low throughout.

Two samples of groundnuts taken from commercial consignments in the Gambia as they were being loaded for despatch to Europe were subsequently forwarded in connection with an investigation by the Department of Agriculture to determine the extent to which the acidity of the oil increases during transit. The samples gave a satisfactory yield of oil (48.6 and 49.3 per cent. from the kernels), but in both cases the oil was found to contain a rather large amount of free fatty acids (about 3 per cent.).

APPENDIX II.

Principal Firms, etc.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade :—

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Address.</i>	<i>Address in Europe (if any).</i>
African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd.	Wellington Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.
Etablissements Barthes et Lesieur.	" "	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
Bathurst Trading Co., Ltd.	" "	34, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.
Etablissements Maurel et Prom.	" "	18, Rue Porte Dijaux, Bordeaux.
Compagnie Française de l'Afrique Occidentale.	" "	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
Gambia Trading Co. ...	Buckle Street ...	23, Water Street, Liverpool.
Maurel Frères ...	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
Louis Vezia & Co. ...	" "	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
Palmine, Ltd. ...	" "	Moorgate Hall, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.
V. Q. Petersen ...	" "	—

All the above firms are represented on the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

APPENDIX III.

List of Barristers, Solicitors, and Patent Agents.

Barristers are entitled to practise as solicitors and *vice versa*.

* S. J. Forster, M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.

* I. J. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

* M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

† G. K. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

S. Barlatt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Leman Street.

W. D. Carrol, B.A., B.C.L. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Picton Street.

G. S. W. Ladepon Thomas, Barrister-at-Law, Kent Street.

S. A. Benka-Coker, Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

* Patent and Trade Mark Agent. † Trade Mark Agent.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1348.

BARBADOS.

Report for 1926–27.

*(For Reports for 1924–25 and 1925–26 see Nos. 1274
and 1301, respectively (Price 9d. each).)*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 9d. net.

58-3-0-27

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page</i>
I. Geographical and Historical Note	3
II. General Observations	5
III. Financial:—	
Revenue and Expenditure... ..	7
Public Debt	9
Banks	9
IV. Trade, Agriculture, and Industry:—	
Imports and Exports	10
Transit Goods... ..	13
Bunkering Trade	13
Direction of Trade	13
Destination of Exports	14
Agriculture	15
Shipping	16
V. Education	16
VI. Social and Vital Statistics and Public Health	18
Public Health... ..	20
Criminal Statistics	21
VII. Communications:—	
By Sea... ..	21
Telegraph	23
Internal	23

BARBADOS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1926-27.

I.—Geographical and Historical Note.

1. Barbados is the most easterly of the West Indian Islands. It is situated in latitude $13^{\circ} 4'$ North and longitude $59^{\circ} 37'$ West. It is about 21 miles long by 14 wide, and contains approximately 166 square miles, with a population of over 940 to the square mile. Its size is, therefore, somewhat larger than the Isle of Wight. Although lying in the same degree of latitude as Madras or the Colony of the Gambia, it enjoys a climate very different from either of these places.

2. Barbados is said to have been first visited by the Portuguese and to have been named by them "Los Barbados" on account of the bearded fig trees they found there.

3. In 1605, it was nominally taken possession of by the English ship "Olive Blossom" in the name of King James I.

4. A grant of the Island of Barbados was made by James I to the Earl of Marlborough, and an expedition for the colonisation of the Island was fitted out under his protection by Sir William Courteen, a London merchant. One of the two ships comprising the expedition reached Barbados and some 30 settlers landed on the Leeward Coast and founded the town of Holetown in February, 1627 (New Style).

5. In the same year Charles I granted all the Caribbee Islands to the Earl of Carlisle, who compromised the Earl of Marlborough's claim by an annuity of £300.

6. In 1628, Charles granted Barbados to the Earl of Pembroke under the impression that it was not one of the Caribbee Islands.

7. Lord Pembroke supported Courteen's right of pre-occupation against Lord Carlisle, and under this last grant the "Leeward" settlers at Holetown continued to hold possession until 1629, when they were finally overpowered by Lord Carlisle's "Windward" settlers, who had landed in Carlisle Bay and founded Bridgetown.

8. Lord Carlisle died, leaving the Caribbee Islands in trust for the payment of his debts, with remainder to his son. The latter transferred his interest to Lord Willoughby of Parham for 21 years. Lord Willoughby, on his arrival as Governor, caused an Act to be passed acknowledging the King's dominion over Barbados and recognising his own position. He continued to govern the Island throughout the Civil War, but was compelled to relinquish the Government when the Commonwealth was established.

9. Many Royalist families found refuge in Barbados as a result of the Civil War, and with the Restoration Lord Willoughby agitated for the revival of his rights. In 1663, the Privy Council decided that he should receive half the annual profits derived from Barbados for the rest of his lease, with remainder to the Government, and that half should go towards the payment of the Marlborough claim and the heirs of Lord Carlisle. After the discharge of all the liabilities the heirs of Lord Carlisle were to get £1,000 a year.

10. In order to raise this money a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. duty was imposed on all exports from the Island. This was a constant source of grievance to the colonists, but it was not until 1834 that the Barbados Legislature passed an Act remitting the duty, which was finally abolished in 1838. The position of the British West Indian planter was at that time very difficult owing to the abolition of slavery in British dominions, and the fact that he still had to compete with the slave-grown produce of other West Indian islands.

11. Barbados, unlike most of the other British West Indian islands, has never passed out of British possession. The Government consists of a nominated Legislative Council of nine members, and a House of Assembly elected annually by the people on the basis of a moderate suffrage. Next to the House of Commons, and perhaps the House of Assembly in Bermuda, the Barbados House of Assembly is the most ancient legislative body in the Empire.

12. The executive functions of the Government are performed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Governor, Colonial Secretary, and Attorney-General, and such other persons as may be nominated by His Majesty the King, with one member of the Legislative Council and four members of the House of Assembly nominated by the Governor. Members of the Assembly are elected annually.

13. The Colony is divided into eleven parishes, each having its affairs controlled by a Board elected annually and called the Vestry. The Vestries deal with the care of the poor and sick, sanitation, maintenance of roads as well as of Church and school buildings, in their districts, and are authorised to levy certain rates and taxes to meet their expenses independently of the Central Government.

14. Barbados is by its natural and climatic conditions the healthiest of all the West Indian Islands, and is much patronised by residents in neighbouring Colonies as a health resort. The anopheles mosquito (the carrier of malaria) is not found in the Island. This is a somewhat curious fact, since it is reasonably certain that it must be imported, not infrequently, in vessels which in many cases lie in the "Carenage" or inner harbour for considerable periods on arrival from places where it is prevalent. The conditions, however, are perhaps unfavourable to its breeding ashore.

15. The hot and rainy season lasts from the beginning of June to the beginning of November, the shade temperature then ranging usually between 80° and 85° F. The Island gets the full benefit of the north-east trade winds, and between November and May the night temperature sometimes falls as low as 64° F. For the greater part of the year the temperature is delightfully equable and the heat is seldom oppressive. Few places, indeed, enjoy a more pleasant climate. The winter months are regarded as "The Tourist Season."

16. Barbados lies almost out of the track of hurricanes, though it is a matter of history that hurricanes have swept over the Island at intervals, notably in 1780, 1831, and 1898, and have done great damage. Earth tremors have been occasionally felt, but severe shocks are unknown.

II.—General Observations.

1. The sugar industry underwent very unfavourable conditions during the year 1926-27. With only a moderate crop, the price at which sugar was sold was the lowest for many years. The severe drought during the first part of 1926 caused also a great scarcity of provision crops, the normal quantities of which were not available until August or September.

2. The revenue of the Colony for the year 1926-27 shows a decrease of £16,670, as compared with the previous year. This decrease is due to the smaller yield of sugar and reduced prices, which are reflected in receipts from Income Tax. A fuller account is given under Head III, Financial.

3. The value of imports for the year decreased by £140,610, the articles principally affected being cotton manufactures, fish (salted and dried), and oats. Tobacco showed a decrease of £4,358, due to falling-off in quantity of imported cigarettes, owing to the establishment of two factories for local manufacture. Import duties amounted to £171,436, as compared with £175,638 for 1925. This decrease of £4,202 is due not so much to the quantities imported but to the fall in the prices of goods on which *ad valorem* duty is levied.

4. The value of staple exports was less than that of the previous year by £159,452, which, as already indicated, is due both to a reduced output and to a drop in prices.

5. The sugar crop of 1926 fell short of that of the previous year by a little more than 1,000 tons. After a very severe drought the rainy season of 1925 scarcely began before the end of July; there followed then a period during which the rainfall was unevenly distributed. To the increased area of the seedling cane variety Ba.11569, remarkable for its drought resistance and power of rapid recovery and growth with the advent of the rainy season,

is attributable the close approach of the year's yield to that of the previous year.

The average price obtained for dark crystal sugar was \$2.75 per 100 lb.

6. The average rainfall for the Colony for 1925 was 47.48 inches, which was 13.58 inches or 22.24 per cent. below the average for the sixty years ended 31st December, 1925, which was 61.06.

7. The erection of the new pumping station at the Belle Waterworks is proceeding. Orders have been placed for machinery, the greater part of which has arrived, and it is anticipated that it will not be long before the station is opened. The addition of this station to the water supply system will go far to remove cause for anxiety or apprehension such as has existed in the past during periods of drought.

8. The British Union Oil Company were still operating in the Colony during the year, but no oil-bunkering business has been undertaken.

9. The removal of the wreck "Guarany" has been completed by the contractors, the operations taking a longer period of time to complete than was at first anticipated. The wreck occupied practically the centre and best anchorage of the harbour, and its removal will greatly facilitate the work of the port.

10. During the Legislative Session of 1926-27 fifty-nine Acts were passed, the most important of which were:—

An Act to provide for the Celebration of the Tercentenary of the First Settlement of Barbados.

The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, dealing with the overcrowding of steamers arriving with passengers.

The Anglican Church (Amendment) Act, prescribing the manner of appointing Bishops, Rectors, Vicars, &c.

The Better Security (Amendment) Act, providing for the protection from intimidation by lawless characters of those who are willing to work during a strike of labourers.

11. The Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, which was the result of a Conference held at Ottawa in 1925, was brought into force, by consent of all contracting parties, on the 30th April, 1927, and the Tariff Preferences came into operation from that date. The steamship service provided for in the Agreement has **not yet** been fully established. The ships intended for employment in the service are now in course of construction, and it is expected that they will be completed during next year. The Legislature of the Colony has undertaken to contribute £5,000 annually towards the subsidy as soon as the steamship service has become fully operative. For the present, one passenger boat a month and a fortnightly freight service are being maintained between Canada and the islands of the West Indies.

12. The year marked the three hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Barbados by the British, and the Legislature in January passed an Act directing that Monday, the 21st February, 1927, should be observed as a public holiday in celebration of the Tercentenary of the Settlement and voted the sum of £100 to meet the cost of such celebration. A parade of the local forces was held. Vice-Admiral Sir Walter Cowan, Bart., Commander-in-Chief of the North Atlantic and West Indies Station, was good enough to permit a contingent of blue-jackets and marines from His Majesty's ships then in port to take part in the parade, which was attended by Members of the Legislature, officials, and a great number of the general public. The presence of the men from His Majesty's ships was a source of much gratification to the community. A joint Address of Loyalty to His Majesty the King by the Legislature was presented at a special meeting to His Excellency the Governor for transmission through the Secretary of State for the Colonies. During the afternoon a gymkhana was held at the Garrison savannah, and sports for the elementary school children took place at the Kensington Cricket Ground. The events were keenly contested and there was a large attendance at both places. A special postage stamp has been issued to mark the Tercentenary.

13. During the year there was one retirement from the public service under the Pension Act, Mr. C. A. Bartlett, Police Magistrate, District "B," having reached the age limit. It is a pleasure to be able to record that His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to confer on Mr. Bartlett the Imperial Service Order as a recognition of his faithful service as a public officer of the Colony for close on fifty years.

III.—Financial.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The following table shows the gross revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

					<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
					£	£
1922-23	...	...	...	...	519,213	402,524
1923-24	...	...	...	...	444,646	420,461
1924-25	...	...	...	...	504,696	364,530
1925-26	...	...	...	...	404,132	394,249
1926-27	...	...	...	...	387,462	418,711

In these amounts are included receipts and payments on account of loans. If these amounts are deducted, the ordinary revenue for the year 1926-27 was £379,286, as compared with £390,774 for 1925-26, and the ordinary expenditure £410,536, compared

The total expenditure on the four departments, £189,284, which represents 46 per cent. of the total administration expenses, excluding special charges.

6. The increase in the expenditure of these four departments is due to the following reasons :—

Police.—Force brought up to full strength authorised by the Police Amendment Act, 1924-34. On the 31st December, 1926, it was one short of full strength.

Education.—Extra expenditure on school buildings and salaries.

Medical Department.—Increments on salaries and necessary increases in the votes for upkeep of the various institutions.

Waterworks.—Erection of Belle Pumping Station and the fixing of additional standpipes.

7. Increases occurred under almost all heads which were more or less due to increments in salaries, as well as bonus additions now included under personal emoluments, and to increased votes for certain incidental expenses.

8. The total increases in expenditure under all heads was £35,254 and decreases £10,793, showing a net increase of £24,461 over 1925-26.

PUBLIC DEBT.

9. The Public Debt remained the same at the 31st March, 1927, as at 31st March, 1926, viz., £591,000, the Sinking Fund on that date being £286,780 as compared with £267,206 in 1926.

BANKS.

10. *Government Savings Bank.*—On the 31st December, 1926, there were 11,644 depositors, the total sum to their credit being £623,746. The value of the invested funds was £729,802. The figures for 1925 were : deposits £643,013, invested funds £774,244, and number of depositors 11,612. The number of depositors increased by 32, but there was a decrease of £19,267 in the amount deposited, which is probably due to smaller sugar crops and the low price obtained for sugar. The decrease in the value of the invested funds is due to maturing of certain investments and to the disposal of others.

11. *Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank.*—This Bank was established in 1906, with a grant of £80,000 made by the Imperial Government, to assist the sugar industry of the Colony. In 1921 the loans with interest totalled £462,107, and at the close of the

year, the 31st May, 1927, £25,542 remained unpaid, as compared with £32,829 in 1926. The unpaid balances due on loans for the years 1924 to 1927 were as follows :—

								£
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	450
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,905
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,904
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,036.

making a total of £90,839 due to the Bank on the 1st May, 1927. The large amount owing in respect of the year 1927 is due to the fact that crops have not yet been sold; as soon as a sale has been effected the balance will be almost entirely repaid.

12. Loans amounting to £174,430 were made to 115 borrowers during the year 1926-27, and are slightly in excess of the previous year when loans totalling £170,890 were made to 113 borrowers. The profit of the Bank for the year was £5,987, as compared with £5,962 for 1926. The Bank has the first lien against the land of the estates by which loans are due, and the utmost caution is taken to avoid loss to the Bank. The capital of the Bank on the 31st May, 1927, was £177,910, as compared with £171,922 in 1926.

IV.—Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

1. The total value of imports and exports for the last five years has been as follows :—

					<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
					£	£
1922	...	...	...	...	2,480,320	1,259,794
1923	...	...	...	...	2,521,882	2,189,740
1924	...	...	...	...	2,556,297	1,858,301
1925	...	...	...	...	2,293,777	1,421,035
1926	...	...	...	...	2,153,167	1,287,161

Imports.

2. The imports for 1926 show a decrease of £140,610, as compared with £262,520 for the previous year.

3. The principal decreases were as follows :—

					<i>Value.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
					£	£
Cotton manufactures	...	...	...	...	167,564	50,724
Fish, salted	...	...	...	...	64,323	50,673
Oats	...	...	...	...	31,097	32,353
Manures	...	...	...	...	112,390	23,558
Pork, salted	...	...	...	...	27,163	9,035
Cotton seed (for oil extraction)	...	...	...	...	17,224	11,594

	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
	£	£
Boots	30,463	6,419
Sugar, refined	10,315	5,956
Tea	4,490	7,888
Tobacco, manufactured	30,316	4,358
Wood, manufactured	22,400	8,372
Apparel	18,705	6,562

4. There were increases in the following items :—

	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Increase.</i>
	£	£
Rice	170,546	57,532
Flour	110,636	18,060
Oilmeal and oilcake	48,284	14,898
Beef, salted	37,193	9,183
White pine	43,368	12,420
Staves and shooks	49,742	8,070
Pitch-pine	33,383	3,135
Kerosene	22,348	3,685
Gasolene	27,737	1,225
Shingles	19,186	6,729

It is interesting to note that, while there has been a decrease of £2,186 in the value of motor-cars imported, there has been an increase of £2,381 in the value of motor-car parts. There are very few English cars imported; the large majority being of American manufacture imported through Canada.

5. The total imports are classified as follows :—

	£
Food, drink, etc.	733,843
Raw materials	369,482
Manufactured articles	830,479
Miscellaneous	70,553
	<hr/>
	2,004,357
Specie	2,000
	<hr/>
	£2,006,357
	<hr/>

Exports.

6. The total value of the exports was £1,287,161, of which £988,377 represents the value of the produce and manufacture of the Colony and £298,784 items re-exported, including bunker coal

7. As compared with the two previous years the value of the principal articles of local produce exported is as follows :—

—	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£
Sugar	997,869	686,238	593,819
Molasses	524,927	395,910	310,745
Cotton	36,113	22,998	40,623
Rum	1,370	1,329	2,496

8. The decrease in the value as compared with that of 1925 is due to a fall in the price and not to the quantities shipped; 1,674 more tons of sugar and 108,939 more gallons of molasses being shipped in 1926 than in 1925.

9. Rum manufactured during the year amounted to 305,528 gallons, of which 23,959 gallons were exported, as compared with 19,891 gallons in 1925, the balance being consumed locally.

10. Cotton exported during the year amounted to 315,912 lb., an increase of 79,281 lb. over 1925. The value of cotton exports was £40,623, as compared with £22,998 for the previous year. The increased value is due not only to the greater quantity exported but also to enhanced market prices.

11. The following table gives the value of the exports of other articles locally produced or manufactured :—

	£
Bay rum	877
Biscuits	8,403
Cotton-seed meal	1,966
Fruits and nuts	5,970
Hides and skins	5,080
Lime, building	5,208
Manjak	3,551
Oils, edible	1,397
Vegetables, fresh	8,217

12. The average prices for sugar, and its by-products, and cotton for the last seven years are given below :—

—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sugar, per ton	63 15 0	22 10 0	16 5 0	25 10 0	24 10 0	14 10 0	12 15 0
Molasses, per gal.	0 3 1	0 1 5	0 1 1	0 1 3	0 1 7	0 1 0	0 0 9
Rum, per gal.	0 4 6	0 12 0	0 2 1	0 2 0	0 2 2	0 2 1	0 2 1
Cotton, per lb.	0 1 5	0 1 10	0 1 10	0 1 10	0 2 1	0 2 0	0 2 8

TRANSIT GOODS.

13. The value of goods entered for transhipment was £91,057 less than in 1925. The following are the figures for the last three years :—

							£
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	193,655
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	225,023
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	133,966

BUNKERING TRADE.

14. One hundred and fifty steamers took 32,708 tons of coal, valued at £81,755, during the year, as compared with 121 steamers which took 30,895 tons, valued at £46,342, in 1925; the increased cost being no doubt due to industrial causes. For the years 1921-1925 the average number of steamers which took coal was 108, the average amount taken being 30,293 tons.

The following are the figures for the last seven years :—

							<i>Steamers.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1920	...	...	...	...	...	...	215	74,599
1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	97	34,308
1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	113	33,374
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	111	29,628
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	97	23,258
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	121	30,895
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	32,702

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

15. The distribution of the import trade according to countries of origin for the last five years is given in the following table :—

—	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
United Kingdom	31·6	32·9	33·0	36·3	30·9
Canada	22·1	24·1	22·4	20·9	20·5
Other parts of the British Empire	16·1	16·6	15·1	15·2	18·5
United States of America	24·1	19·6	21·4	18·7	21·6
Other Foreign Countries	6·1	6·8	8·1	8·9	8·5

The value of the imports from the above places for 1926, exclusive of bullion and specie, was as follows :—

	£
United Kingdom	666,242
Canada	442,314
Other parts of the British Empire	397,717
United States of America	465,917
Other foreign countries	182,947

16. The value of the principal articles imported from Canada as compared with the United States of America is as follows:—

	<i>Canada.</i>	<i>U.S.A.</i>
	£	£
Boots and shoes	7,332	2,283
Butter	4,204	949
Oilmeal (cattle food)	44,438	3,729
Coal	—	70,040
Cornmeal	1,719	32,960
Fish (salted)	28,951	—
Flour	88,797	21,678
Oats	31,097	—
Manures	17,334	6,461
Salt beef	931	34,461
Pork	15,180	11,786
Wood (various)	86,790	61,673

DESTINATION OF EXPORTS.

17. The following table gives the value of the exports to the various countries for the past six years:—

—	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	105,687	149,058	427,677	205,921	204,970	247,987
Canada	653,332	655,649	1,280,543	1,182,971	767,619	593,474
Other parts of British Empire.	137,183	106,886	121,593	83,297	97,001	70,152
United States of America.	67,429	44,245	53,048	101,190	54,909	61,756
Other foreign countries.	10,019	9,130	15,100	17,962	19,895	15,008
	973,650	964,968	1,897,961	1,591,341	1,114,394	988,377

The percentage of increases and decreases of the exports to the above places as compared with 1925 are:—

	<i>Increase</i> <i>per cent.</i>	<i>Decrease</i> <i>per cent.</i>
United Kingdom	8.0	—
Canada	—	6.9
Other parts of British Empire	—	2.3
United States of America	1.4	—
Other foreign countries	—	0.2

18. The value of sugar and molasses shipped to the various countries is as follows :—

				<i>Sugar.</i>	<i>Molasses.</i>
				£	£
United Kingdom	...	...	...	208,010	2,028
Canada	...	...	...	361,451	231,927
Newfoundland	...	...	...	31	19,975
United States of America	...	...	...	—	56,701
Holland	...	...	...	875	—
Elsewhere	...	...	...	23,452	114

The value of sugar and molasses exported was less than in 1925 by £92,419 and £85,165, respectively.

AGRICULTURE.

Sugar and Molasses.

19. According to the Customs returns for the year 1926, 42,990 tons of vacuum pan crystals, 2,795 tons of muscovado sugar, and 7,760,334 wine gallons of molasses, equal, at 110 gallons per puncheon, to 70,549 puncheons of molasses of all grades, were exported of the total value of £904,564, made up as follows :—

<i>Sugar.</i>			<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	
				£	£
Dark crystal	...	...	42,990	558,871	
Muscovado	...	...	2,795	34,948	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	593,819
			45,785		
			<hr/>		
<i>Molasses.</i>			<i>Gallons.</i>		
Fancy	...	...	7,085,523	295,230	
Choice	...	...	431,608	13,488	
Vacuum pan	...	...	243,203	2,027	
			<hr/>	<hr/>	310,745
			7,760,334		
			<hr/>		<hr/>
					£904,564
					<hr/>

The average price for dark crystal sugar was \$2.75 per 100 lb.

20. The following table gives a comparison in terms of sugar alone (equating fancy molasses thereto) of the exports for the past five years :—

						<i>Tons.</i>
1922	...	...	...	...	...	51,074
1923	...	...	...	...	...	62,711
1924	...	...	...	...	...	54,493
1925	...	...	...	...	...	65,567
1926	...	...	...	...	...	64,431

It is estimated that approximately 35,000 acres are under sugar-cane annually.

Cotton.

21. The total number of acres planted in cotton for the season 1925-26 was 3,676 acres, and the approximate total yield was 1,205,509 lb. of seed cotton, the general yield of the Island being 328 lb. of seed cotton per acre. The lint percentage obtained was 24.6 per cent., the yield of cotton seed 895,320 lb., and the yield of lint 296,555 lb., the loss being 13,634 lb.

From the Customs returns it is ascertained that for the year 1st October, 1925, to 30th September, 1926, there were exported 548 bales of lint, weighing 298,715 lb. and valued at £46,051 17s. 11d., and 27 bales of linters, weighing 13,363 lb. and valued at £230 9s. 3d. The value of 895,320 lb. of cotton seed at \$40.00 per ton is £3,330 16s. 1d. The approximate total value of the cotton crop of the Island for 1925-26 is therefore £49,613 3s. 3d.

22. The following table gives the comparison of cotton crops by the crop, that is, from the 1st October of one year to the 30th September of the next year:—

—	<i>Crop of 1924-25.</i>	<i>Crop of 1925-26.</i>	<i>Increase.</i>
Acres	2,301	3,676	1,375
Quantity (lint) lb.	224,126	298,715	74,589
Value	£23,251	£46,052	£22,801

SHIPPING.

23. The number of vessels which entered the port during the year was 1,176 with a net tonnage of 1,904,548, as compared with 1,140 vessels with a tonnage of 1,634,677 during the previous year. In addition, five ships of war and four yachts visited the port.

24. The number of seamen employed at the port during the year was 4,122, while 3,846 were discharged. The estimated amount of money brought in during the year as wages by seamen belonging to the Colony was £50,000, as compared with £21,000 for 1925-26.

V.—Education.

1. The schools of the Island, though largely assisted, and, in the case of elementary schools, almost entirely supported by Government grants, are not Government schools. They are supervised, however, by a Board of Education consisting of nine persons nominated by the Governor, of whom seven must be members of the Legislature. The Inspector of Schools and his

assistants are nominated by the Board. Each elementary school is under the direction of a local committee consisting of the clergyman of the district and two others nominated by the Central Board. Contributions towards the maintenance of elementary school buildings are made from parochial funds.

2. There are three grades of schools recognised by the Board, viz., elementary, of which there were 133 in 1926, second-grade, six in number, five for boys and one for girls, and three first-grade schools, Harrison College and the Lodge School for boys, and Queen's College for girls. Harrison College and Queen's College are situated in Bridgetown, the Lodge School in the parish of Saint John. The Lodge School is the only school at which boarders are accommodated. The elementary schools are annually classified as first, second, or third class schools according to the efficiency of each school in its work, tone, &c. There are also three "ragged schools" for the very poor.

3. The number of children on the school registers in 1926 was 22,595 and the average attendance 14,610, which is a slight increase on the two previous years. It is sometimes said that a large number of the children of the Colony have no opportunity of education, but there is very little ground for this opinion. According to the Census of 1921, the number of children between five and twelve years of age was about 26,000, of which 25,533 were returned as attending educational institutions. Allowing for a certain proportion over twelve and a few under five the number receiving no education cannot be large.

4. The second-grade school for girls, which was being erected last year, is now completed at a total cost of £16,000, voted by the Vestry of Saint Michael for the purpose. It has not yet been opened. The cost of erection has been borne entirely by the Vestry, but it is recognised that the Legislature must afford financial assistance for its maintenance. A scheme for governing the school has recently been submitted for consideration.

5. Codrington College is affiliated to the University of Durham. Its students are admissible to all Degrees, Licences, and Academical ranks in the several Faculties of that University. The College staff consists of a Principal and two Professors, who lecture to a number of students varying from fifteen to twenty. The Government provides three scholarships annually to the value of £60 per annum and tenable for three years. The College has recently been destroyed by fire, but provision has been made for carrying on its courses until it is restored.

6. The grant for Education in 1926 was £45,428, of which £1,284 is the cost of the Education Board and Head Office, £8,660 grants to first and second grade schools, £843 for University education, and £33,213 for elementary schools, the remainder being for incidental expenses.

7. Of the £33,213 allocated to elementary schools, £27,638 was used for paying the salaries of the teachers. The total fees collected from elementary pupils for the year was £1,849.

8. School gardens are cultivated at a fair number of the schools, and at the local Agricultural Exhibition, held annually by the Department of Agriculture for peasant proprietors and school children, there was a large display of exhibits from the elementary schools.

9. Under the trade apprenticeship bursaries system, twelve apprentices have completed their first year's and ten their second year's course. The course of training lasts from three to five years, according to the trade chosen.

10. The three first-grade schools enter candidates for the Oxford and Cambridge Higher Certificates, School Certificate, and Lower Certificate Examinations, as well as for the Cambridge Local. The second-grade schools enter for the Junior Cambridge Local and School Certificate Examinations.

11. The Rawle Training Institute for training elementary teachers is carried on in conjunction with Codrington College. There were five male and six female teachers undergoing training during the year, and since its establishment in 1921 eighty-three teachers, fifty-two male and thirty-one female, have passed through the Institute, of whom sixty-three (twenty male and forty-three female) are serving in the Colony. The Institute receives an annual grant from the Government of £450.

VI.—Social and Vital Statistics and Public Health.

1. The last census was taken in 1921, and showed a decrease of population since 1911 of 15,671. Some of the more important figures of this census, compared with that of 1911, are given below :—

	1911.	1921.
Total population	171,983	156,312
Number of whites	12,063	10,429
Number of blacks	118,387	111,677
Number of mixed	41,533	34,216
Number per square mile, St. Michael	3,825	3,623
Number per square mile, whole Island	1,034	940
Percentage of females	59.2	59.7
Number of agricultural labourers	36,233	32,728
Attending educational institutions	34,244	25,533
Afflicted persons	1,200	1,124

2. The population on the 31st December, 1926, was estimated to be 169,385, but as this estimate depends on emigration and immigration figures, which experience has shown to be often seriously inaccurate, not much reliance can be placed upon it. These figures show 9,897 departures from the Colony during the year, and 11,792 arrivals.

3. The emigration to the United States of America is controlled by the immigration laws in force in the States. The annual quota allowed to the Colony by the American Government is about 60.

4. The birth-rate during the year was 31.32 per 1,000, and the death-rate 29.62. The percentage of illegitimate births was 68.83.

5. The following are the figures for the last five years :—

—	<i>Birth-rate.</i>	<i>Illegitimate Percentage.</i>	<i>Death-rate.</i>
1922	34.33	66.97	22.41 per 1,000
1923	37.44	70.1	37.11 "
1924	32.91	68.24	29.54 "
1925	34.85	70.92	29.46 "
1926	31.32	68.83	29.62 "

6. The following table gives the principal causes of death, as compiled from the returns made under the Registration of Deaths Act :—

<i>Causes.</i>	<i>Actual number of deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 of total mortality.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.</i>
Fevers :—			
Enteric	71	15	0.4
Malaria	(a)	—	—
Other (except puerperal)	—	—	—
Bowel complaints, including dysentery, diarrhoea and enteritis*,	1,319	278	8.0
Pneumonia and bronchitis†	244	46	1.34
Kidney diseases	207	42	1.3
Phthisis and other forms of tuberculosis	221	45	1.4
Diseases peculiar to early infancy	444	95	2.8
Old age	132	28	0.8
Diseases of the heart	358	79	2.3
Syphilis‡	528	110	3.7
Diseases of the nervous system	346	76	2.3

* 85 per cent. of this were of children under three years of age.

† 63 "

‡ 83 "

(a) Imported case at observation hospital, quarantine station.

7. The rate of infant mortality still remains high, the number per 1,000 during the last five years being :—

							<i>Infant deaths per 1,000 births.</i>
1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	371
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	298
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	312
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	314

PUBLIC HEALTH.

8. Barbados enjoys natural advantages from a health standpoint, which few tropical places can surpass. Its climate is equable, without extreme heat or cold in any part; the soil is well drained by nature and the Island is constantly swept by trade winds. It has an admirable water supply which is well distributed to all parts of the Island. Malaria is unknown and people who can afford to live away from insanitary surroundings are generally healthy and vigorous.

9. Typhoid fever and dysentery are common; the following table gives the cases of enteric fever notified during the last five years :—

1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,084
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	735
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	762
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	432
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	441

10. The occupation incidence of enteric fever is given below :—

Labourers	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
School children	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Domestic servants	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Artisans and mechanics	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Seamstresses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Nil (generally under school age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Clerks and teachers	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Housewives	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Laundresses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Lightermen, fishermen, and porters	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Policemen	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Not stated	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
							441

11. The high incidence of enteric fever is probably due to insanitary conditions and perhaps also to a more or less general distrust of prophylactic preventive measures. The water supply is tested regularly and reports are invariably satisfactory.

12. The Health Commission appointed in 1925 to enquire into the Public Medical and Sanitary Services in the Colony and the conditions of public health have submitted their report which has been communicated to the Legislature for consideration.

13. There is a venereal disease clinic conducted under the auspices of the Barbados General Hospital in Bridgetown and there is now under consideration the construction of an up-to-date clinic on lands adjoining the Hospital, for which the sum of £4,000 has been voted by the Legislature. It seems certain, however, that clinics are required in the country districts for the treatment of those who are unable from various causes to attend the clinic at the Hospital. During the year, 528 deaths occurred from syphilis, of which number 452 were children under five years of age.

14. The treatment of leprosy with ethyl esters of chaulmoogra oil still continues at the leper asylum, and up to the present twenty-nine inmates have been medically boarded and discharged conditionally.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

15. The records for 1926 do not disclose that conditions have changed to any appreciable extent as compared with previous years, the only notable feature being the steady reduction in the number of convictions for praedial larceny. A comparative statement for the last three years is given below :—

—	1924.	1925.	1926.
Total number of persons committed to prison ...	1,278	1,208	1,249
Sentenced to terms of one year or more ...	42	33	43
Daily average in prison (males) ...	197	172	187
Daily average in prison (females) ...	46	39	36
Police Court convictions ...	10,605	10,856	10,775
Police Court convictions for praedial larceny ...	732	586	504
Convictions by Superior Court ...	76	62	77
Convictions by Superior Court for praedial larceny ...	—	—	—

VII.—Communications.

BY SEA.

1. Communication with England is maintained by steamers of the Elders and Fyfe Company and the Royal Dutch West India Line, which call here fortnightly. These steamers also call at

Trinidad and the Spanish ports as far as Colon, the former going to Jamaica. They are admirably equipped for passengers, and carry and bring the bulk of the passengers between the United Kingdom and Barbados. Freight steamers are also run by the Harrison and Leyland Lines, which call here regularly, continuing on to Trinidad and the Spanish ports as far as Colon. Some of the Harrison steamers also go to Demerara. Two of the steamers of the Harrison Line are equipped for passengers and receive an appreciable amount of patronage, their freight steamers, however, take a very limited number.

2. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which maintained a fortnightly service between Halifax and Saint John via Bermuda, West Indies, and British Guiana, for which they were paid a subsidy by the Canadian Government, ceased to operate on the termination of the contract, and a new contract has been awarded to the Canadian Government Merchant Marine for a regular fortnightly service from Canada to Barbados via Bermuda and the British Northern Islands, proceeding to Saint Vincent, Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara, which, it is expected, will be operating in full in about a year's time as soon as the ships for maintaining the service are completed. At present two of the new ships, the "Canadian Skirmisher" and "Canadian Pathfinder" are vessels of 8,000 tons each, and are fitted for first, second, and third class passengers; the "Canadian Volunteer" and "Canadian Carrier" are of 4,400 tons each, but are not fitted with first and second class accommodation. All four steamers, however, carry a limited number of deckers.

The Ocean Dominion Steamship Corporation and the Pickford and Black Limited have also recently inaugurated a Canada and West Indies Service both south-bound and north-bound.

3. The steamers of the Lamport and Holt Line call here fortnightly on their route to and from New York and Brazilian ports. These ships are well equipped for passengers, and convey the bulk of the mails between the United States and Barbados.

In addition to these, the Bermuda and West Indies Steamship Company and the Clyde Line operate monthly between New York and the northern islands. The former are equipped for carrying passengers and freight, while the latter are freight steamers with a limited passenger accommodation.

4. Other lines of steamers call all the year round for bunkers, stores, &c., and, on the whole, Barbados is well served as far as communication with other parts of the world is concerned. The

number of ships bringing and taking mails is given below, as compared with 1925 :—

	<i>Steamers.</i>		<i>Sailing Ships.</i>	
	<i>1925.</i>	<i>1926.</i>	<i>1925.</i>	<i>1926.</i>
Mails for Barbados	396	437	29	44
Mails from Barbados	364	428	51	105

TELEGRAPH.

5. There are three telegraph systems in operation in the Colony, viz. :—the Pacific Cable Board (West Indian System) with their direct cable via Turks Island, cables to Trinidad and British Guiana, and wireless station in the Windward and Leeward Islands ; the West India and Panama Telegraph Company Limited maintaining its old service ; and the Western Union Telegraph Company to Miami, and the Western Telegraph Company to Brazil.

INTERNAL.

6. The Barbados Government Railway consists of 24 miles of rail which runs through the southern parishes and along the eastern coast. At present the rolling-stock and line is in fairly good condition.

7. The Colony is well provided with a motor-bus service between Bridgetown and the suburbs and all the country districts. There is a regular service between Bridgetown and the leeward parishes which are not tapped by the railway. For this service the Government pays a subsidy of £200 per annum.

8. There has been little or no improvement in the condition of the roads, which have continued to get worse owing to the increased motor traffic, and the Legislature have recently amended the Central Road Board Act, taking the roads of the parish of Saint Michael out of the hands of the Highway Commissioners and placing them under the control of the Central Road Board which is adequately equipped with staff and plant. Sums amounting in the aggregate to £18,000 have been voted by the Legislature for reconditioning and repairing roads in the parish of Saint Michael. In addition, the Act provides that the taxes raised by the Vestry for highway purposes, about £6,000 to £7,000, shall be paid over to the Central Road Board. The majority of the principal roads leading into the city are now undergoing extensive repairs.

While the roads have been temporarily placed under the control of the Central Road Board, it is still the intention that the Board should function in the manner originally intended, viz., the reconstruction of the main arterial roads of the Island, and for this purpose a scheme has been submitted by the Board to the Executive and has been communicated to the Legislature. Up to the present the total amount voted by the Legislature and placed at the disposal of the Central Road Board is as follows :—

£5,000 for administrative expenses, &c.

£12,000 for machinery (rollers, tractors, &c.).

£18,000 for repairs.

These amounts are in addition to the normal appropriation for road purposes. The Legislature, in pursuance of a request from the Vestries, has undertaken to increase by 50 per cent. the parochial grants for road purposes.

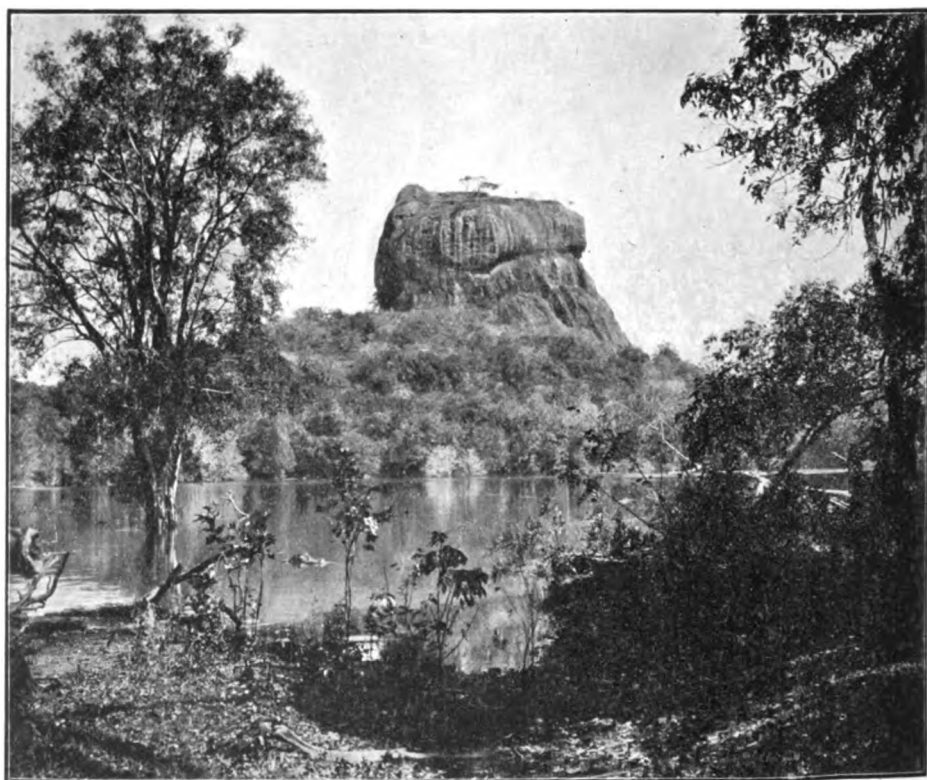
CYRIL E. STOUTE,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
BARBADOS.

12th July, 1927.

FRONTISPIECE.



Plâté, Limited, Colombo.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1349.

CEYLON.

REPORT FOR 1924.

*For Report for 1922 see No. 1172 (Price 3s.) and for
Report for 1923 see No. 1243 (Price 5s.)*



LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

PRINTED IN CEYLON

1927

Price 5s. net

58-12-0-24.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I.—General Summary	1
II.—Finance	4
III.—Trade and Shipping	6
IV.—Land	28
V.—Agriculture	39
VI.—Public Works	48
VII.—Excise	56
VIII.—Post and Telegraph	58
IX.—Education	64
X.—Medical	79
XI.—Law and Justice	94
XII.—Local Government	113
XIII.—Indian Immigrant Labour	113
Index	117

0,520640

ROADS

RAILWAY EXISTING

DO... UNDER CONSTRUCTION

DO... UNDER SURVEY

PROVINCE BOUNDARY

DISTRICT BOUNDARY

RAINFALL

TEMPERATURE

RUBBER



Annual General Report for 1924.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

TO attempt to set out any general summary of the condition and progress of Ceylon during any year is a matter of considerable difficulty. This is due to the wide divergence of conditions, not only between the rural and urban areas, but between the wet and dry zones. It is, however, possible by a study of the trade returns of the Island, the vital statistics and health returns, the reports on education and agriculture, and of the reports received of the general progress of the different Provinces to arrive at certain generalizations which, though not applicable uniformly throughout the Island, may be taken as broadly correct as regards the Island as a whole. A review of these reports for 1924 shows that the year was generally one of exceptional prosperity.

The trade of Ceylon had a very prosperous year in 1924. The combined value of exports and imports exceeded those of any previous year by Rs. 50,000,000. This was mainly due to the value of the exports, which was the highest on record. Imports exceeded those of any previous year except 1915. The increase in the value of the imports was fairly uniformly distributed over the different dutiable articles and indicates a general increase in the spending capacity of the Island.

The agricultural industries as a whole had another good year. A satisfactory feature was that not only was the prosperity of the tea industry maintained, but the coconut industry made a marked recovery from the comparative depression in 1923. The exports of rubber fell slightly during the year. There was a fall in price till about the middle of the year, but thereafter the price rose continuously, with the result that estates were able to show a small margin of profit on the year's working and the future of the industry was much

more promising. As regards tea, it is satisfactory to note that not only was the area under cultivation by small holders increased during the year, but in certain areas the number of Sinhalese employed on tea estates increased. In regard to rubber it is also worthy of mention that there were 24,432 estates of under 10 acres and that the total acreage of such estates was 45,870 acres. Paddy cultivation had a more or less successful year. In certain areas, however, the weather conditions were bad. In the Eastern Province, for example, considerable loss of crops was caused first by a serious drought and a consequent caterpillar pest, and later by excessive rain and floods. Towards the end of the year, however, the prospects in the Province improved considerably. In spite of rather adverse weather conditions cotton cultivation in the Hambantota District was on the whole successful and gave considerable relief to one of the poorest areas in that district. In the North-Central Province the venture in cultivation of Sisal hemp gave signs of promise. The reports from the English markets on the quality of hemp produced were most encouraging. In spite of the general prosperity in the agricultural industries local food shortage was experienced in certain areas, but fortunately this shortage was not widespread and the necessary relief measures were taken.

The demand for further educational facilities continued unabated throughout the year. To meet this demand the expenditure on education was increased from Rs. 2,532,787 in 1923 to Rs. 3,244,742 in 1924—an increase of roughly 28 per cent. There was a continued demand, as in past years, for English education, but this was accompanied by an increased study of the vernacular languages due partly to the inclusion of Sinhalese and Tamil in the curricula of the London Matriculation, Intermediate Arts, and the Cambridge Examinations.

The general health of Ceylon during 1924 was better than in 1923. Though there was a fall in the number of births this was outweighed by the drop in the death rate from 30.6 per thousand in 1923 to 25.7 per thousand in 1924. The number of deaths from all the main diseases was reduced with the exception of enteric fever and dysentery. The highest death rate was again in the North-Central Province, but in that Province the death rate per thousand was reduced from 58.5 in 1923 to 46.7 in 1924. The campaigns against malaria in Anuradhapura, Trincomalee, and Mahara Prison were continued with success, notably in the case of Mahara Prison. All that is required in these areas for further success is further co-operation of the inhabitants with the Medical authorities. The success recorded in the previous year in the combating of

parangi was continued throughout 1924. The villagers are reported to have been convinced of the efficacy of the treatment given by the Itinerating Medical Officers and the success of this campaign seems assured.

Crime during 1924 was in excess of 1923. This increase was almost entirely in respect of crimes of violence. The movement started by the Education Department for the teaching of boxing in schools in order to wean the villager from the use of the knife as the appropriate means of settling disputes made progress during the year. It is hoped that the extension of this movement and the prompt investigation and punishment of this form of crime will have satisfactory results.

The activities of the temperance party were continued throughout the year. The number of closures effected by local option was not quite so numerous as in the preceding few years. This was partly due to the large number of closures in previous years which necessarily reduced the field for further activities and partly to the interest of the public being largely centred on the General Election for the new Legislative Council.

During the year there was a considerable extension and improvement of communications. Reports from the Provinces again call attention to the great development in motor bus traffic. This traffic will necessitate a large increase in the cost of maintaining the roads opened to bus traffic. On the other hand there can be no doubt of the great convenience afforded by this traffic to large sections of the public. Not only have passenger facilities been improved, but the increasing motor traffic greatly facilitates the transport of goods in certain districts. It is reported that certain local industries are being stimulated by the faster and cheaper methods of transport—for example, the growing of vegetables up-country and in the Eastern Province a local venture in the supply of iced fish.

Perhaps the most interesting event of the year was the General Election for the reformed Legislative Council. The increase in the number of constituencies and the widening of the franchise necessitated the preparation of revised Voters' Lists at very short notice. An immense amount of work was involved in the preparation of these lists. The General Election was held towards the end of the year. A very keen and widespread interest was taken in the elections—the great majority of the seats were contested. A healthy sign was the large percentage of the total number of voters who recorded their votes. The new Council was formally opened by Sir William Manning in October, and a new stage in Ceylon's political development then inaugurated.

II.—FINANCE.

REVENUE.

THE revenue collected during the financial year ended September 30, 1924, amounted to Rs. 102,363,115.67, which was Rs. 9,065,115.67 more than the estimate and Rs. 8,642,946.34 more than the amount collected in the previous financial year. Customs, harbour dues, revenue of oil installations, Railway receipts, interest on public funds invested, miscellaneous receipts, and land sales were mainly responsible for the increase over the previous financial year. The principal increases were under Customs Rs. 3,900,272. port and harbour Rs. 787,953, Railway receipts Rs. 2,386,222. interest Rs. 1,148,636, miscellaneous receipts Rs. 997,822, and land sales Rs. 306,576. The increased Customs and Railway receipts and port and harbour dues are an indication of improved trade conditions.

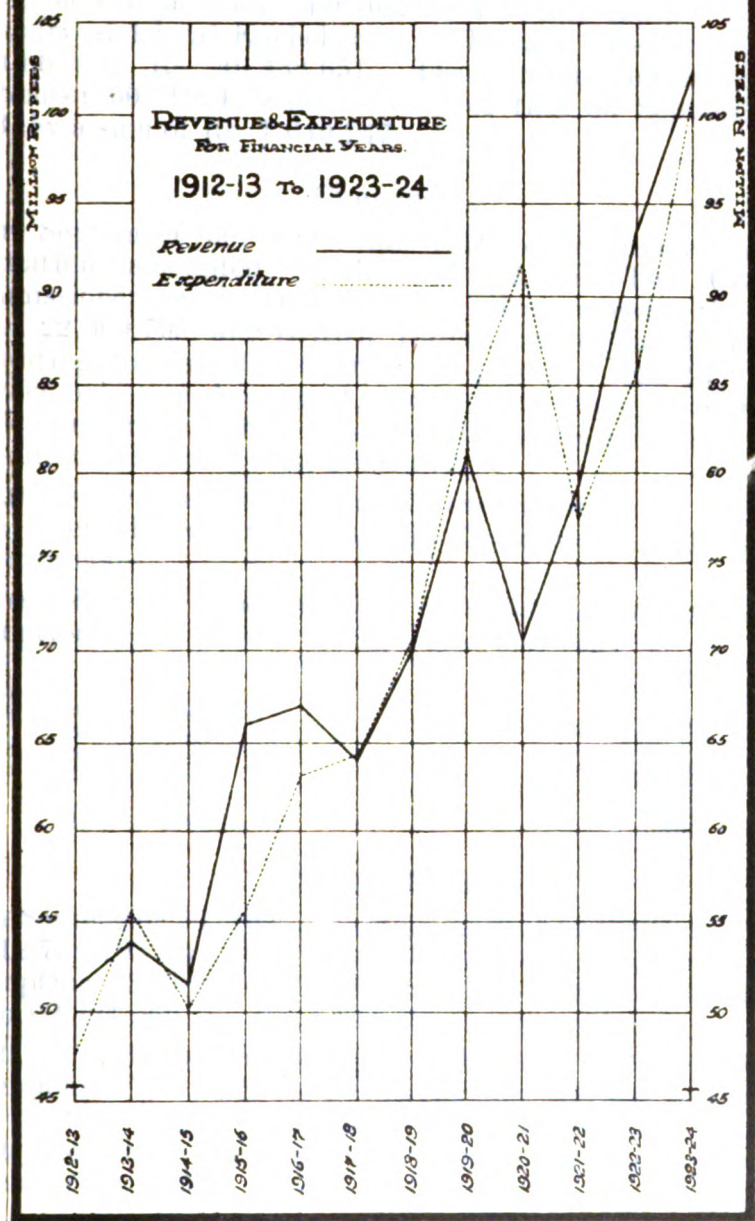
EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the financial year ended September 30, 1924, which was estimated at Rs. 96,816,816, amounted to Rs. 100,713,868.77, the excess on the estimate being Rs. 3,897,052.77. This expenditure exceeded that of the previous financial year by Rs. 15,129,959.05. The increase as compared with the previous year is due to a variety of causes, including more liberal provision for expenditure under Education, Railway Department, Railway Extraordinary Works, Public Works Annually Recurrent, and Public Works Extraordinary; the payment of four instalments of £100,000 each of Ceylon's war contribution to the Imperial Government, instead of the two instalments which actually fell due; the grant of Rs. 3,000,000 to the Ceylon University Building and Equipment Fund; a special grant in aid of Rs. 450,000 to the Local Loans and Development Fund; and the return to 1s. 4d. as the official rate of exchange for conversion of sterling into rupees (the 2s. rate adopted during 1920-21 to 1922-23 having been abandoned).

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets of the Colony on September 30, 1924, were Rs. 62,739,336, and the liabilities Rs. 39,526,430, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 23,212,906. The assets consisted of cash in fixed deposits and current accounts in the local and Indian banks and with the Crown Agents in London,

DIAGRAM No. 1



Printed, Survey Dept. Ceylon, 8 6 25

unissued stores, investments in rupee and sterling gilt edged securities, and sundry recoverable advances. The main liabilities represent amounts due to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, the Ceylon University Building and Equipment Fund, the loan account, and suitors and other depositors in the Treasury and local Kachcheries. The cash balances available amounted to Rs. 40,438,651. The accumulated surplus on September 30, 1924, was in excess of that on September 30, 1923, by a sum of Rs. 1,649,247.

CURRENCY.

On September 30, 1924, the value of currency notes in circulation amounted to Rs. 47,002,025. The Currency Commissioners on the same date held silver rupees to the extent of Rs. 22,569,795, and British, Indian, and Colonial securities amounting to Rs. 30,336,302 (cost price) or Rs. 27,914,646 (market price) on August 31, 1924. The value of the reserve on September 30, 1924, was thus in excess of the value of notes in circulation by Rs. 5,904,072.

During the year silver rupees to the extent of Rs. 7,324,000 were received from the banks in Colombo in exchange for currency notes.

The following denominations of subsidiary coins were in circulation in the Colony on September 30, 1924 :—

				Rs.
50 cents (silver)	...	...	...	4,050,000
25 cents (silver)	...	...	...	2,806,750
10 cents (silver)	...	...	...	2,932,461
5 cents (nickel)	...	...	...	634,800
1 cent (copper)	...	...	...	865,737
$\frac{1}{2}$ cent (copper)	...	...	...	318,068

PUBLIC DEBT.

On September 30, 1924, the sterling debt of the Colony stood at £12,738,293 and the rupee debt at Rs. 3,000,000, towards redemption of which were held securities and moneys amounting to £2,824,569 and Rs. 1,311,828, respectively.

Setting off the securities against the debts and effecting the conversions at Rs. 15 to the pound sterling, the nett total public debt of the Colony amounts to Rs. 150,394,032, which is slightly less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the revenue for the year ended September 30, 1924.

CEYLON SAVINGS BANK.

The Ceylon Savings Bank had a sum of Rs. 5,188,687.90 to credit of 44,742 depositors on December 31, 1924, against Rs. 4,903,716.88 to credit of 43,504 depositors on December 31,

1923. The amount of the bank's invested funds on December 31, 1924, was Rs. 5,771,461.35, which include investments made from the reserve fund of Rs. 770,078.46. The interest paid to depositors amounted to Rs. 162,000. Interest was allowed at the rate of 4 per cent. on accounts of Rs. 1,000 and under, and 3 per cent. on accounts above Rs. 1,000.

Accounts may be opened with a minimum deposit of 50 cents, and not more than Rs. 1,000 can be deposited in one year irrespective of withdrawals. The maximum sum that a depositor may have to his or her credit is Rs. 3,000.

Charitable institutions or societies may deposit Rs. 2,500 per annum up to Rs. 7,500.

DEATH DUTIES.

Estates of persons whose deaths occurred on or after July 1, 1919, are chargeable with duty under the Estate Duty Ordinance, No. 8 of 1919, which came into operation as from that date.

During the financial year 1923-24 a sum of Rs. 1,516,217.41 was collected as estate duty on 2,623 estates, as against Rs. 1,505,022.28 collected during the previous year on 1,938 estates. In addition to this, a sum of Rs. 27,519 was paid as stamp duty on probates and letters of administration in respect of the estates of persons who died before July 1, 1919. The largest estate dealt with was of the value of Rs. 847,278.84, and the amount of duty paid thereon was Rs. 59,592.70.

The total amount of penalties recovered under the Ordinance in respect of 335 cases was Rs. 2,952.84.

The total duty collected under the Ordinance is nearly five times the stamp duty formerly collected on probates and letters of administration.

III.—TRADE AND SHIPPING.

GENERAL REVIEW.

THERE has again been a marked increase in the trade of Ceylon in 1924. Only once before—in 1920—have this year's import figures been exceeded, while the export figures are in excess of those of any previous year, and the combined total exceeds the previous best (1923) by nearly Rs. 50,000,000.

DIAGRAM No 2.

RECORDED
VALUES
IN
MILLEN

RS. &

750 50

675 45

600 40

525 35

450 30

375 25

300 20

225 15

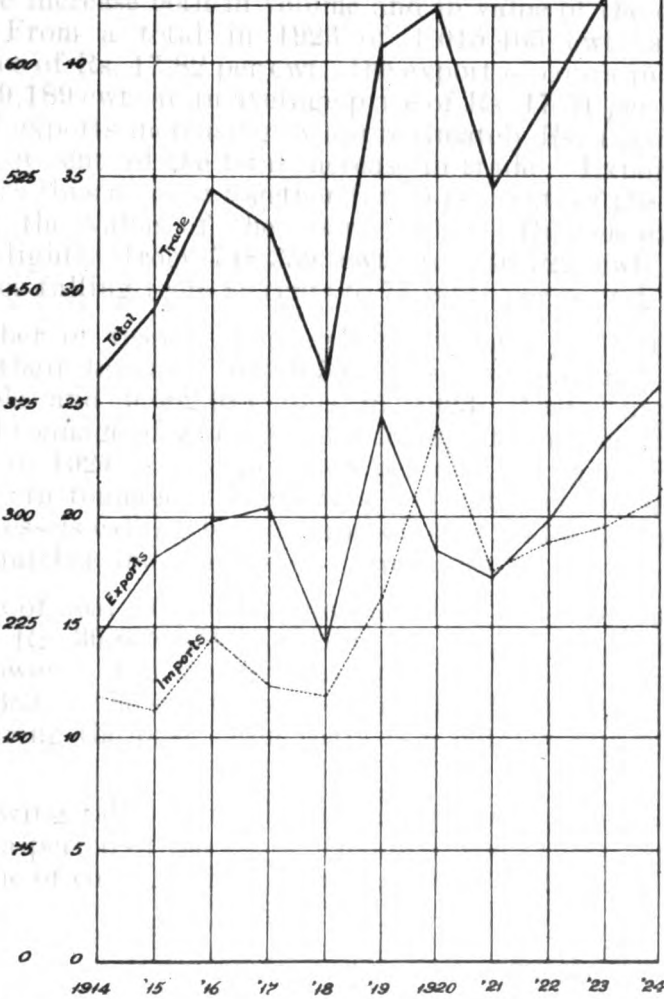
150 10

75 5

0

TOTAL VALUE OF TRADE - CEYLON -

Total Trade
Imports, Including Specie
Exports viz, Ceylon Produce
Imports exported and Specie



The increase in value of exports was largely attributable to the firmness of the tea market. In 1923 some 182 million pounds of tea were exported at an average price of Re. 1.02 per lb., whereas in 1924 205 million pounds yielded Rs. 215,000,000, or an average of just under Re. 1.05 per lb. The increased production stimulated by high prices, combined with the slight increase in selling price resulted in a rise of the total export value by some three crores of rupees, or roughly 60 per cent. of the total increase in trade for the year. Second only to the increase in tea export, and even greater in proportion was the increase both in volume and in value of the copra exported. From a total in 1923 of 1,015,465 cwt. at an average price of Rs. 17.82 per cwt., the export of copra in 1924 rose to 1,769,189 cwt. at an average price of Rs. 17.51 per cwt., the value of exports increasing by approximately Rs. 1.3 crores or over 25 per cent. of the total increase in trade. Exports of tea and copra thus account together for 85 per cent. of the total increase in the value of the year's trade. Rubber export decreased slightly from 748,359 cwt. to 740,722 cwt., the average price falling from 88 cents to 77 cents per pound.

The number of vessels entering Ceylon ports in 1924 was 3,858 and their tonnage 10,649,557 tons, as compared with 3,677 vessels and 9,602,984 tons in 1923. Deducting the number and tonnage of warships and transports the percentage of increase in 1924 over 1923 is 4.8 per cent. in number and 11 per cent. in tonnage. There was a slight decrease in the number of vessels calling for coal and oil only and a falling off also of the number and tonnage of sailing vessels.

The value of coal supplied to steamers had fallen by annual stages from Rs. 36,638,574 in 1920 to Rs. 13,551,793 in 1923. In 1924, however, the figures again took an upward turn to Rs. 15,088,683. The steady increase in the value of liquid fuel supplied during the past seven years is a notable sign of the times.

The following table shows the annual value of imports and exports for a period of ten years, excluding the value of specie and the value of coal and liquid fuel supplied to steamers :—

Year.		Imports. Rs.		Exports. Rs.		Total. Rs.
1915	...	163,637,758	...	273,375,987	...	437,013,745
1916	...	211,500,753	...	297,505,905	...	509,006,658
1917	...	184,123,986	...	304,160,457	...	488,284,443
1918	...	177,716,763	...	211,325,334	...	389,042,097
1919	...	239,323,731	...	367,054,779	...	606,378,570
1920	...	321,275,652	...	268,462,183	...	589,737,835
1921	...	260,897,161	...	256,600,413	...	517,497,574
1922	...	280,414,704	...	297,753,215	...	578,167,919
1923	...	287,947,472	...	351,035,248	...	638,982,720
1924	...	302,734,490	...	385,354,418	..	688,088,908

The values of coal and liquid fuel supplied to steamers since 1918 are as follows :—

Year.		Value of Coal supplied to Vessels. Rs.		Value of Liquid Fuel supplied to Vessels. Rs.
1918	...	17,479,335	...	515,123
1919	...	32,899,550	...	2,869,327
1920	...	36,638,574	...	2,733,738
1921	...	27,638,759	...	3,030,034
1922	...	16,309,907	...	3,720,575
1923	...	13,551,793	...	7,576,801
1924	...	15,088,683	...	8,773,710

The total values of Ceylon trade for the last six years, excluding specie, but including coal and liquid fuel supplied to steamers, are as follows :—

Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.	Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.
1918	... 4,070½	1922	... 5,982
1919	... 6,421½	1923	... 6,601
1920	... 6,291	1924	... 7,119½
1921	... 5,481½		

DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE.

The percentage of the United Kingdom's share in imports into Ceylon was slightly larger than that of 1922 or 1923, but was still behind that of 1921. Imports from foreign countries again made headway at the expense of those from British Possessions, the turnover from one to the other amounting to about 4 per cent. There was a falling off of about 2 per cent. in exports to the United Kingdom which was divided between British Possessions and Foreign Countries.

There were few changes of any importance in the source of imports to the Colony. The most important was the falling off of imports from Burma from 20 per cent. of the total to 15 per cent., due almost entirely to the successful competition of Calcutta in the rice trade. The average price of rice imported from British India proper was considerably less than that of Burma rice. Of the other larger importers Java and the United States gained a fair amount of ground. Others whose trade slightly increased were Borneo, Japan, Natal, and Germany, while the trade of Australia, Holland, and Persia fell off.

While the United Kingdom remained *facile princeps* among the Colony's customers, the percentage of exports to her account fell off slightly, after remaining stationary for three

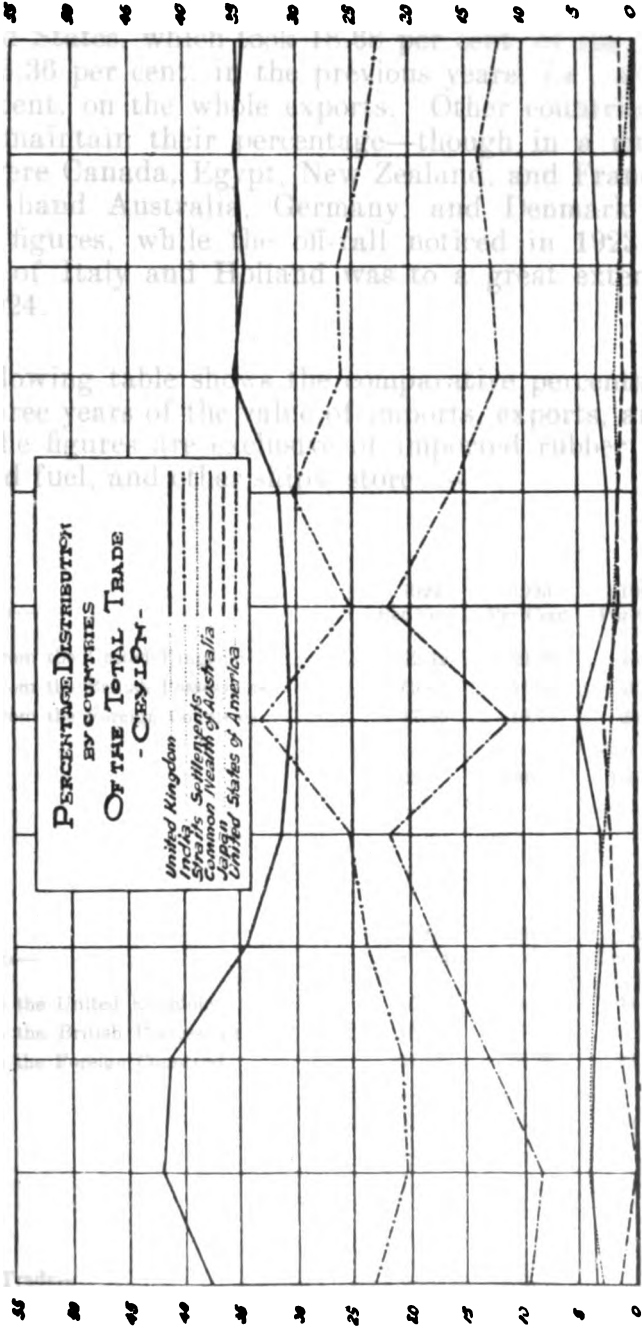
Per Cent

Diagram No. 3

Per Cent

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION
BY COUNTRIES
OF THE TOTAL TRADE
- Ceylon -

United Kingdom
India
Ceylon
Siam
Commonwealth of Australia
Japan
United States of America



Statistical Department

years. More considerable was the decrease in the purchases of the United States, which took 18.68 per cent. of the total, as against 23.36 per cent. in the previous years, *i.e.*, a drop of 4.68 per cent. on the whole exports. Other countries which failed to maintain their percentage—though in a much less degree—were Canada, Egypt, New Zealand, and France. On the other hand Australia, Germany, and Denmark showed increased figures, while the off-fall noticed in 1923 in the purchases of Italy and Holland was to a great extent made good in 1924.

The following table shows the comparative percentages for the last three years of the value of imports, exports, and total trade. The figures are exclusive of imported rubber, and of coal, liquid fuel, and other ships' stores :—

Imports—		1922. Per Cent.		1923. Per Cent.		1924. Per Cent.
From the United Kingdom	...	22.42	...	22.39	...	23.06
From the British Possessions	...	59.63	...	57.86	...	53.76
From the Foreign Countries	...	17.95	...	19.75	...	23.18
		100		100		100

Exports—		1922. Per Cent.		1923. Per Cent.		1924. Per Cent.
To the United Kingdom	...	46.27	...	46.64	...	44.72
To the British Possessions	...	16.36	...	17.01	...	18.02
To the Foreign Countries	...	37.37	...	36.35	...	37.08
		100		100		100

Total Trade—						
From and to United Kingdom	...	34.78	...	35.81	...	35.29
From and to British Possessions	...	37.21	...	35.25	...	33.69
From and to Foreign Countries	...	28.01	...	28.94	...	31.02
		100		100		100

The principal countries from which Ceylon's imports are obtained, with the percentage of the total value supplied by each for the last three years, are shown in the following table :—

	1922. Per Cent.	1923. Per Cent.	1924. Per Cent.
1. British India ...	24.24	29.06	31.09
2. United Kingdom ...	22.14	22	22.64
3. Burma ...	26.95	20.59	15.9
4. Java ...	2.68	3.29	3.88
5. United States of America ...	2.39	2.24	2.96
6. Borneo (excluding British) ...	2.3	2.7	2.91
7. Japan ...	1.85	1.89	2.12
8. Natal ...	2.73	1.69	1.93
9. Germany ...	1.32	1.37	1.79
10. Australia ...	1.82	2.94	1.7
11. Sumatra ...	.63	.88	1.37
12. Holland ...	1.13	1.55	1.35
13. Straits Settlements ...	1.56	1.27	1.33
14. Maldiv Islands ...	1.29	1.41	1.31
15. Russia in Asia ...	—	.61	1.06
16. Belgium ...	.37	.61	.89
17. Persia ...	1.73	1.02	.66
18. Italy ...	.48	.5	.66
19. Other British Possessions in			
Africa ...	.49	.27	.64
20. Switzerland ...	.13	.32	.63
21. France ...	.78	.58	.63
22. Hong Kong ...	.52	.44	.6
23. Canada ...	.13	.55	.57
24. India (excluding British) ...	.21	.49	.48
25. China ...	.18	.25	.21
26. Sweden ...	.24	.21	.2
27. Other Foreign Countries in			
Europe ...	.05	.07	.16
28. Austria ...	.02	.04	.13
29. Siam ...	.5	.09	.11
30. South America (excluding			
Chili) ...	—	—	.1

The values of the staple products exported from Ceylon during the last five years are as follows :—

	Lakhs of Rupees.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
1. Tea ...	808	1,127	1,460	1,857	2,150
2. Rubber ...	900	516	570	736	637
3. Copra ...	284	242	288	181	310
4. Coconut, desiccated ...	183	266	202	227	220
5. Coconut Oil ...	199	150	149	139	158
6. Arecanuts ...	29	33	33	35	33
7. Coir Fibre ...	16	11	18	24	29
8. Citronella Oil ...	11	11	16	21	29
9. Cinnamon ...	21	18	20	21	29
10. Coconuts, fresh ...	10	24	18	13	25
11. Cacao ...	25	20	31	22	25
12. Coir Yarn ...	8	6	13	20	21
13. Plumbago ...	21	8	16	15	13
14. Tobacco unmanufactured ...	8	6	10	7	10
15. Poonac (coconut) ...	6	9	8	6	9
16. Cardamoms ...	5	5	5	6	7
17. Skins (dressed and un-					
dressed) ...	9	6	6	7	6

Exports of Ceylon Staple Products, 1920-1924.

The quantities exported during the same years are :—

		1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
1. Tea	...	184,770,331 ...	161,610,966 ...	171,807,581 ...	181,939,731 ...	204,930,307
2. Rubber	...	790,648 ...	766,834 ...	933,886 ...	749,359 ...	740,722
3. Copra	...	1,357,870 ...	1,367,431 ...	1,686,589 ...	1,015,465 ...	1,769,189
4. Coconut, desiccated	...	618,736 ...	870,515 ...	768,215 ...	818,793 ...	871,841
5. Coconut Oil	...	507,527 ...	484,724 ...	564,636 ...	480,543 ...	552,633
6. Arecanuts	...	124,048 ...	131,045 ...	133,531 ...	160,578 ...	130,904
7. Coir Fibre	...	252,568 ...	302,267 ...	319,125 ...	359,082 ...	480,492
8. Citronella Oil	...	1,022,809 ...	1,160,555 ...	1,399,889 ...	1,121,271 ...	1,433,381
9. Cinnamon	...	35,121 ...	45,364 ...	42,974 ...	44,984 ...	47,484
10. Coconuts, fresh	...	9,776,479 ...	23,738,542 ...	22,317,747 ...	15,963,670 ...	22,121,041
11. Cacao	...	56,397 ...	62,245 ...	83,210 ...	60,904 ...	69,351
12. Coir Yarn	...	72,438 ...	60,710 ...	102,688 ...	105,088 ...	117,199
13. Plumbago	...	184,100 ...	86,996 ...	216,999 ...	213,383 ...	193,017
14. Tobacco, unmanufactured	...	3,590,474 ...	2,411,419 ...	4,394,595 ...	2,961,094 ...	4,158,880
15. Poonac (coconut)	...	92,452 ...	160,699 ...	116,479 ...	116,549 ...	156,251
16. Cardamoms	...	3,754 ...	4,512 ...	4,096 ...	2,788 ...	2,667
17. Skins (dressed and undressed)	...	12,025 ...	8,353 ...	9,061 ...	8,605 ...	10,635

The principal countries buying Ceylon produce and manufactures are given in the following table, with the percentage of value taken by each :—

	1922. Per Cent.		1923. Per Cent.		1924. Per Cent.
1. United Kingdom ...	47.4	...	47.28	...	45.78
2. United States of America ...	22.32	...	23.36	...	18.68
3. Australia ...	4.27	...	3.8	...	4.92
4. Germany ...	3.8	...	2.72	...	4.41
5. Denmark ...	1.6	...	1.16	...	2.76
6. Italy ...	3.29	...	1.57	...	2.58
7. Canada ...	2.39	...	2.65	...	2.46
8. British India ...	2.2	...	2.2	...	2.4
9. Egypt ...	1.46	...	2.18	...	1.88
10. Norway ...	1.19	...	1.88	...	1.85
11. New Zealand ...	1.75	...	2.03	...	1.71
12. Holland ...	1.55	...	.86	...	1.46
13. Other British Possessions in					
Asia ...	—	...	.49	...	1.26
14. Belgium ...	1.15	...	.96	...	1.2
15. Natal ...	1	...	1.11	...	1.01
16. Cape Colony ...	.81	...	.9	...	.94
17. France ...	.71	...	1.02	...	.94
18. South America (excluding					
Chili) ...	.34	...	.53	...	.52
19. Japan ...	.4	...	.51	...	.51
20. Straits Settlements ...	.41	...	.41	...	.41
21. Sweden ...	.28	...	.42	...	.27
22. Turkey in Asia ...	.05	...	.15	...	.23
23. Spain (excluding Gibraltar) ...	.23	...	.31	...	.23
24. Philippine Islands ...	.28	...	.29	...	.22
25. Newfoundland ...	.17	...	.19	...	.19
26. Other British Possessions in					
Africa ...	.2	...	.18	...	.18

NOTES ON THE PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

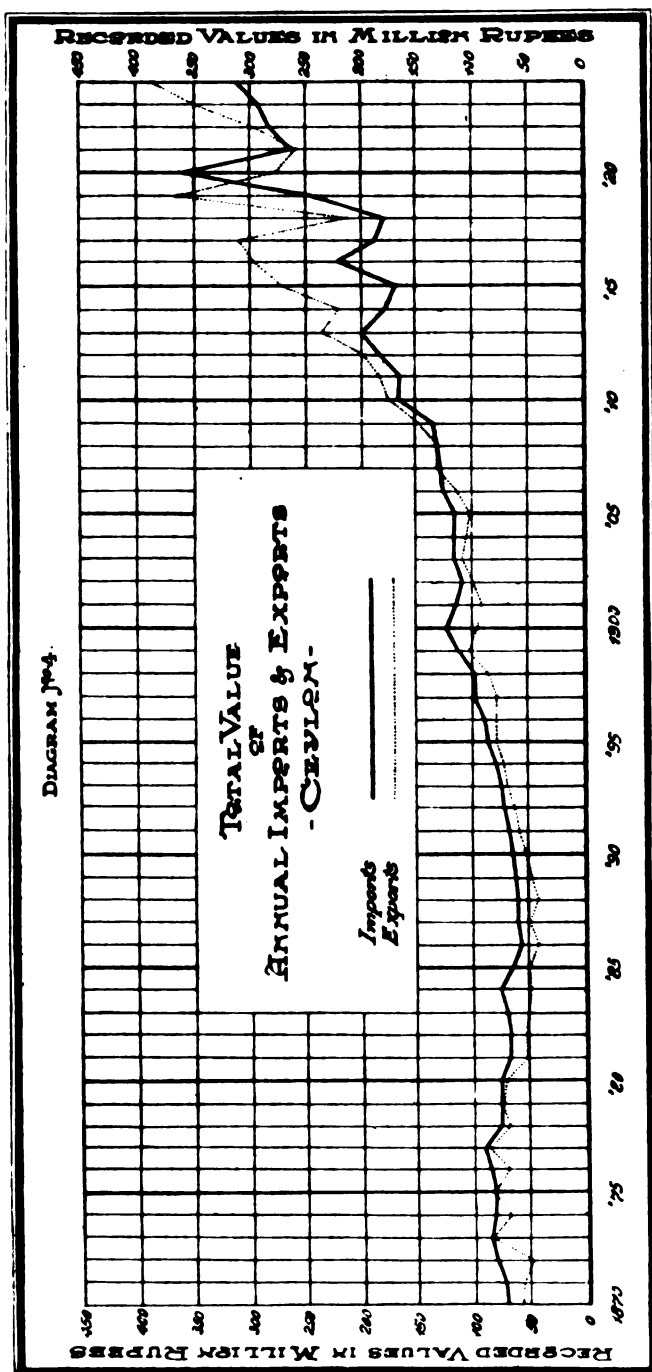
Flour and Meal.—Australian flour competed even more successfully than in 1923 with Indian for the Ceylon market. There was practically no other competitor in the field.

Year.			Quantity. Cwt.		Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	275,395	...	3,370,742
1924	...	...	320,074	...	3,312,873

Rice.—Slight increase in the quantity imported, average drop of 12 per cent. in value. The most notable change is the alteration in the direction of flow. In 1924 more rice was imported from British India proper than from Burma.

Year.			Quantity. Cwt.		Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	7,423,833	...	83,424,898
1924	...	...	7,519,186	...	76,749,249

Other Grains.—There was a considerable falling off in imports of other grains. The decrease in paddy (30 per cent.) was a marked feature, and was no doubt largely attributable to the change in the source of Ceylon's main food supply from the East to the North.



Statistical Department

Imports during the Period 1915-1924.

Year.	Rice. Cwt.	Other Grains. Cwt.	Year.	Rice. Cwt.	Other Grains. Cwt.
1915	... 7,173,778	... 937,703	1920	... 5,788,730	... 1,310,996
1916	... 8,073,964	... 1,117,413	1921	... 5,859,957	... 1,324,895
1917	... 7,754,121	... 1,102,566	1922*	... 7,209,157	... 956,550
1918	... 6,472,152	... 815,161	1923*	... 7,423,833	... 1,134,443
1919	... 5,342,575	... 1,433,295	1924*	... 7,519,186	... 965,469

* Includes imports by Government, 83 cwt. Other Grain in 1924.

Sugar.—Imports of refined sugar increased by about 25 per cent. Of the total amount imported, Java supplied five-sixths, as against four-fifths in 1923. Imports from Hong Kong and the Straits Settlements also increased, India only shipped 40 per cent. of her last year's total, but maintained her place as a supplier of coarse sugar.

Year.	Quantity. Cwt.	Value. Rs.
1923	... 553,191	... 12,295,164
1924	... 691,294	... 14,834,906

Manufactured Tobacco, Cigars, and Cigarettes.—The import of cigars was stationary, as was that of tobacco. The "cigarette habit" however made a great stride, figures showing an increase of 23 per cent. The main source of supply remained unchanged. "Beedies" increased by about 15 per cent.

The quantities of each cleared for home consumption during the last six years have been as follows :—

Year.	Cigars. lb.	Cigarettes. lb.	Manufactured Tobacco. lb.	Total. lb.
1913	... 22,051	... 318,955	... 48,258	... 389,264
1920	... 12,198	... 371,575	... 29,034	... 412,807
1921	... 8,092	... 319,005	... 23,330	... 350,427
1922	... 8,883	... 330,071	... 21,429	... 360,383
1923	... 7,387	... 327,482	... 21,354	... 356,223
1924	... 7,272	... 403,370	... 20,379	... 431,021

Spirits.—There was again a very large increase (15 per cent.). While whisky, the quality and price of which do not vary greatly in different brands, fell off very slightly, there was a large increase in imports of gin and brandy, particularly the latter, of which a very large proportion is now imported at an extremely low price. The brandy came from France and the bulk of the gin from Holland.

The quantities of the three chief kinds cleared for home consumption during the last three years are as follows :—

Proof Gallons.					
		1922.		1923.	1924.
Brandy	...	20,509	...	33,893	44,089
Gin	...	45,387	...	67,252	83,487
Whisky	...	54,477	...	57,902	55,887
Total	...	120,373		159,047	183,463

Cotton Manufactured and Raw.

Year.					Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	...	...	26,954,348
1924	...	...	...	...	27,021,596

Raw Cotton.—Decrease of 15 per cent. Imports almost entirely from British India. The value rose from Rs. 65 to Rs. 93 per cwt.

Bleached Yarn and Twist.—Imports fell off by 62 per cent. The United Kingdom dropped out of the market almost entirely, while supplies from British India rose from three thousand to over twenty-three thousand lb. There was a remarkable increase in price from 45 cents per lb. to Re. 1.56 per lb.

Dyed Yarn.—Here again there was a large off-fall in imports (40 per cent.), and the United Kingdom almost dropped out of the market. Imports from India fell off by over 30 per cent. Prices were rather lower.

Grey Yarn.—Great decrease in quantity. Some decrease in price.

Piece Goods.—These, of course, form the bulk of the imports of cotton into Ceylon. There was a decrease in imports to the extent of about two million yards or 5 per cent. Of the various subdivisions decreases were shown in imports of bleached, grey, and “other piece goods” and of muslin. On the other hand there were increases in imports of dyed and printed piece goods, possibly indicating a movement towards a “Brighter Ceylon,” so far at any rate as dress is concerned. There was practically no change in prices.

Except in the dyed goods market, where India again takes premier place, the United Kingdom maintained her predominance, but by a decreased majority. In printed goods alone did she exhibit any increase. India on the other hand made considerable headway in every branch except muslin and “other piece goods.” Imports from Holland fell off greatly in every branch. Japan and Switzerland made noticeable progress in the market. There were few other changes of note.

Lace and Nets and Embroidery.—There was little change in quantity or value. Imports from the United Kingdom fell off slightly, those from British India considerably; Switzerland, with greatly increased imports, took third place to the United Kingdom, which still retained three-fourth of the market; importations from Germany showed an appreciable increase (25 per cent.). Switzerland again improved her position as an exporter of embroidery, of which she supplies over six-sevenths of Ceylon's demands.

Thread.—The demand for thread increased by one-third. The United Kingdom again supplied five-sixths of the total imported.

Articles manufactured of Cotton not elsewhere specified.—There was an increase of imports under this head, accompanied however by a diminution in value. The United Kingdom supplied the great bulk of the imports, but the value of Indian imports, which were only a fractional part of the United Kingdom share in quantity, was proportionately very much higher, amounting to nearly one-fourth of the whole value of goods imported under this head.

Coal.—The increase in imports of coal has already received mention elsewhere. Imports from the United Kingdom were slightly larger in quantity and about the same in total value. Both Natal and India sent increased quantities to Ceylon. The shares of the respective countries were: United Kingdom, 27 per cent.; Natal, 34 per cent.; British India, 25 per cent.

Year.			Quantity. Tons.		Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	544,548	...	16,844,436
1924	...	...	675,136	...	19,052,471

Liquid Fuel.—The increase in the demand for this fuel has already received notice. The increase in imports was about 30 per cent. Of the total imports more than three-quarters was re-exported in the form of ships' stores. Borneo, the largest supplier, sent about twice as much as Persia, but fell short by 20 per cent. of her record of 1923. Persia supplied 66 per cent. more than last year. The others who furnished considerable amounts were Sumatra and the United States of America.

Year.			Quantity. Gallons.		Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	32,179,572	...	8,976,552
1924	...	...	42,332,008	...	11,574,023

Kerosine Oil.—Imports of bulk oil fell off by 18 per cent. Over three-quarter of the year's supply was received from Asiatic Russia, as against just over one-third in 1923. There were no imports from Persia, and those from the United States of America fell off by over 45 per cent. The latter again supplied the bulk of the case oil, though in diminished quantities.

Year.			Quantity. Gallons.		Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	5,841,059	...	5,309,732
1924	...	...	4,698,101	...	4,254,985

Petrol.—The enormous increase (nearly 100 per cent.) in imports of this commodity must be largely attributed to the rapid increase in the number of motor omnibuses placed on the

roads in 1924. Borneo entered the lists as a strong competitor against Sumatra, the proportion sent by the latter being roughly 53 per cent. of the total imports, as against 47 per cent. by the former.

Imports during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.	Gallons.	Year.	Gallons.
1920 ...	988,427	1923* ...	1,959,474
1921 ...	1,381,671	1924* ...	3,749,236
1922* ...	1,389,363		

* Includes Government imports, 40,000 gallons in 1924.

Manure.—Importations of manure increased by 10 per cent. Groundnut poonac and fish guano displaced bone meal at the head of the imports, the latter commodity showing a decrease of 21 per cent. In each case the bulk of the imports were from British India, nitrolim and nitrate of soda showed considerable increases, as did also sulphate of ammonia and potash and blood meal.

Year.	Quantity. Cwt.	Value. Rs.
1923 ...	1,520,719	9,226,386
1924 ...	1,672,017	9,823,580

Horses.—111 horses were imported, as against 161 in 1923. Two-thirds came from the United Kingdom, twenty-seven came from India, and two from Natal. There were no imports from Australia.

Motor Cars and Lorries.—Increase of over 20 per cent. in the number of cars imported. Increase in number of cars imported from United Kingdom nearly 150 per cent., 40 per cent. increase in number imported from the United States of America. Canada alone showed a considerable off-fall, both in quantity and value, and now ranks second to the United States in numbers and third in value of imports. The average value of American cars imported was Rs. 2,732, of English cars Rs. 3,573.

There was an enormous increase (over 150 per cent.) in the number of lorries imported; imports from the various countries increased by the following percentages :—Canada, 128 per cent.; United States of America, 174 per cent.; United Kingdom, 187 per cent.

Motor Cars—				Lorries—			
Year.	Number	Value. Rs.		Year.	Number.	Value. Rs.	
1923 ...	968	2,473,439		1923 ...	318	891,689	
1924 ...	1,175	3,157,734		1924 ...	800	2,168,158	

Metals and Metalware.—Imports of ferrous metals and metalware rose in 1924 by 30 per cent. in value and 34 per cent. in quantity. Once more the United Kingdom supplied the bulk of the imports, the value of her share being 76 per cent. of the

total. The next largest exporters were Germany (10 per cent.) and Belgium (9 per cent.), both of whom considerably increased their consignments. The United States was the only other competitor who supplied as much as 2 per cent., this representing a falling off from 1923 of 14 per cent. Government imports revived somewhat in value.

Year.			Quantity. Cwt.		Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	624,104	...	9,087,050
1924	...	...	839,483	...	11,876,465

The largest single sub-head was "Iron and Ironware Unenumerated," which showed an increase of over 30 per cent. Nine-tenths of the imports under this sub-head were from the United Kingdom. Other large items were iron bars and rods (60 per cent. increase), corrugated iron sheets (20 per cent. increase).

Non-ferrous Metals and Manufactures thereof.—As in the case of ferrous metals, the year's imports showed a large increase over 1923, the percentage of increase in value being nearly 22 per cent. Of the various importing countries, two alone supply four-fifths of the total, namely, the United Kingdom and Burma. In 1923 Burma had a slight preponderance, in 1924 the pendulum had swung a trifle the other way; broadly speaking, there was an equal division between them in both years. British India absorbed one-tenth of the market, the remaining tenth being divided between twenty-two other countries.

Year.					Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	...	...	4,756,194
1924	...	...	...	...	5,774,905

Aluminiumware.—The chief feature was the 300 per cent. increase in imports from the United Kingdom, which leapt from a poor fourth to an easy first, at the expense of her three successful rivals of 1923. Otherwise the respective positions of British India, Germany, and Switzerland remained unchanged.

Brass Alloys of Copper.—There were large increases in every sub-head. The United Kingdom maintained her complete predominance as a supplier of screws, nails and wire, tubes, and unworked metal. Germany headed the list of suppliers of brass rods and sheets, while India again furnished the largest share (nearly 50 per cent.) of other unclassified brass manufactures, the United Kingdom being a good second, and the rest nowhere.

Plate and Nickel Plate.—Germany supplied the greater quantity, but the imports from the United Kingdom were double the value.

Pig Lead.—Burma again supplied the bulk. The total increase was about 20 per cent.

Tea Lead.—Increase of 20 per cent. in value to the advantage of the United Kingdom. Imports from India decreased by 50 per cent.

Tin Slab.—Slight increase; United Kingdom made headway (150 per cent.) at the expense of the Straits Settlements, which however still supplied 75 per cent. of the total.

Cement.—Imports increased by 193,477 cwt., *i.e.*, 37 per cent. over 1923 figures. Of this large increase, 90,000 cwt. were due to increased imports by Government. Imports from the United Kingdom, still the largest supplier, rose by 20 per cent. Supplies from Germany rose by over 100 per cent., and those from Denmark by over 20 per cent. Import from other countries were negligible.

Year.			Quantity. Cwt.		Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	521,337	...	1,232,304
1924	...	...	714,814	...	1,547,184

Tea Shooks.—Increase of 18 per cent. in importations. Japan supplied three-quarters of the total imports. Most of the rest came from the United Kingdom. According to the rough estimate of cases used, the proportion of imported to home-manufactured cases (two to one) has altered very little.

Year.			Number of Chests.		Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	1,963,982	...	3,570,699
1924	...	...	2,328,477	...	4,157,865

Diamonds and Precious Stones.—The duty recovered on the imports of diamonds and precious stones during 1924 was Rs. 147,910 on a value of Rs. 1,479,098. Of this duty, Rs. 126,230 was refunded on subsequent re-exportation—the nett recoveries being thus Rs. 21,680.

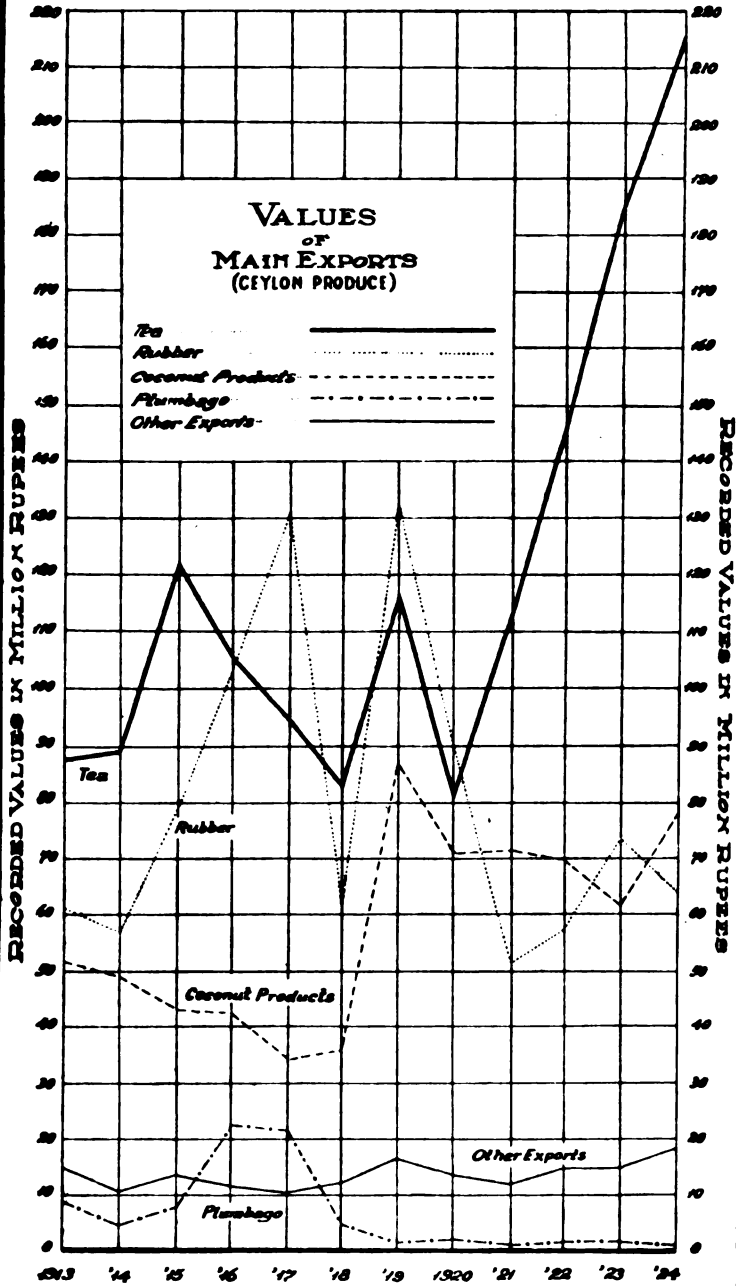
The value of precious stones brought to Ceylon by commercial travellers amounted to Rs. 1,421,619, whilst imports by local merchants were valued at Rs. 57,479.

NOTES ON THE PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Tea.—The distribution of the Colony's tea output is set out in tabular form below :—

Year.		Million Pounds.	Year.		Million Pounds.
1918	...	180	1922	...	172
1919	...	208	1923	...	182
1920	...	184	1924	...	205
1921	...	161			

DIAGRAM No 8.



Statistical Department

Printed Survey Dept Ceylon 8 6 25

TRADE AND SHIPPING.

19

	1924. lb.	1923. lb.	Increase. lb.	Decrease. lb.
United Kingdom ...	132,886,382	119,768,283	13,118,099	—
<i>British Possessions.</i>				
Australia ...	15,460,636	10,815,635	4,645,001	—
British India ...	1,575,906	1,854,021	—	278,115
Canada ...	7,963,614	7,261,404	702,210	—
Cape Colony ...	2,958,063	2,556,179	401,884	—
Egypt ...	4,494,973	4,899,968	—	404,995
Hong Kong ...	159,928	203,480	—	43,552
Mauritius ...	349,538	231,401	118,137	—
Natal ...	3,096,665	3,232,364	—	135,699
Newfoundland ...	689,060	648,616	40,444	—
New Zealand ...	5,884,136	6,386,188	—	502,052
Other British Possessions in Africa ...	653,929	580,192	73,737	—
Other British Possessions in Asia ...	4,591,331	1,600,377	2,990,954	—
Straits Settlements ...	976,775	897,605	79,170	—
Zanzibar ...	133,015	145,781	—	12,766
Other British Possessions ...	230,263	192,507	37,756	—
	49,217,832	41,505,718	9,089,293	1,377,179
		Deduct Decrease ...	1,377,179	
		Nett Increase ...	7,712,114	
<i>Foreign Countries.</i>				
Chile ...	204,225	237,119	—	32,894
China (excluding Hong Kong ...)	136,985	114,235	22,750	—
Denmark ...	185,792	110,878	74,914	—
France ...	927,362	1,244,839	—	317,477
Germany ...	695,132	119,463	575,669	—
Italy ...	264,213	188,949	75,264	—
Japan ...	465,875	372,552	93,323	—
Mozambique ...	154,087	107,206	46,881	—
Other Foreign Countries in Africa ...	295,774	161,306	134,468	—
Russia in Europe ...	110,691	—	110,691	—
South America (excluding Chile) ...	1,399,780	1,317,446	82,334	—
Sweden ...	106,699	82,017	24,682	—
Turkey in Asia ...	770,216	450,152	320,064	—
Turkey in Europe ...	162,622	118,709	43,913	—
United States of America...	16,309,413	15,550,436	758,977	—
Other Foreign Countries ...	569,826	456,876	112,950	—
	22,758,692	20,632,183	2,476,880	350,371
		Deduct Decrease ...	350,371	
		Nett Increase ...	2,126,509	
Ships' Stores ...	67,401	33,547	33,854	—
Total ...	204,930,307	181,939,731	22,990,576	—

After the United Kingdom, which absorbs two-thirds of the total, the United States and Australia are Ceylon's best customers, and while the increase in purchases by the former amounted only to some 5 per cent., there was a very large rise in

volume of exports to the latter, amounting to nearly 42 per cent. Other important customers whose demand increased were Canada (10 per cent.) and Cape Colony (16 per cent.), while the countries grouped (for want of a more concise term) as "Other British Possessions in Asia" purchased 187 per cent. more than in 1923. The more important decreases were in exports to Egypt, British India, New Zealand, Natal, and France. The percentage of increase in volume of total exports was 12 per cent., that of exports to the United Kingdom 11 per cent.

Other Exports.—These have been broadly dealt with elsewhere in the report. Some of the more important figures are given below.

Products of the coconut show a satisfactory increase in each of the three main branches. It is probably correct to say that the figures appended show that 1924 was the most productive year on record since 1919. In the latter year the figures of coconut oil were higher, but those for the desiccated nut were considerably less, while copra was practically the same. No doubt the unusual rainfall in 1924 had much to do with this.

Year.	Desiccated Coconuts.		Copra.		Coconut Oil.	
		Cwt.		Cwt.		Cwt.
1919	...	675,060	...	1,759,525	...	675,999
1920	...	518,735	...	1,357,870	...	507,527
1921	...	870,515	...	1,367,431	...	484,724
1922	...	768,215	...	1,686,589	...	554,626
1923	...	818,793	...	1,015,465	...	480,543
1924	...	871,341	...	1,769,189	...	552,633

Desiccated Coconuts.—The United Kingdom took slightly less desiccated nut, the United States considerably less (25 per cent.). On the other hand exports to Germany went up by 164 per cent.

Copra.—Purchases by the United Kingdom were somewhat less. There was however a large increase in the demand from British India, Denmark, Germany, Holland, and Italy.

Coconut Oil.—The United Kingdom took much less—about 60 per cent. of the 1923 supplies. Germany too showed a diminished demand for this product, those who manifested an increased interest in this market were British India, Italy (who ranked second to the United Kingdom in 1924), Denmark, who, entering the market after a complete absence in 1923 ran Italy close for second place, and Sweden.

Rubber.—The existence of rubber control naturally renders figures of production and export of rubber of little use for purposes of comparisons. The United Kingdom took just under 25 per cent. of the whole, and her purchases decreased by

about 11 per cent. The United States took over two-thirds of the whole, her proportion and the volume of her purchases being about the same as last year. Germany took twice as much as last year; other changes were slight.

Year.			Quantity. lb.		Value. Rs.
1923	...	...	83,816,228	...	73,594,349
1924	...	...	82,960,851	...	63,749,711

SHIPPING.

3,858 vessels entered the various ports of the Island, as against 3,677 in 1923. The tonnages were 10,649,557 and 9,602,984, respectively. The following table shows the classification under four general heads :—

	1923.		1924.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
Merchant vessels (with cargo and in ballast) ...	2,339	8,052,459	2,599	9,196,469
Merchant vessels (called to coal and oil) ...	387	1,285,004	365	1,195,543
Native sailing vessels ...	901	91,529	836	81,131
Warships and transports*	50	173,992	58	176,414
	<u>3,677</u>	<u>9,602,984</u>	<u>3,858</u>	<u>10,649,557</u>

* Warships' displacement tonnage.

The following table shows the comparative distribution of merchant vessels, including those which called only for the purpose of coaling :—

Nationality.	1923.		1924.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
British ...	1,906	6,115,626	2,051	6,678,281
British Colonial ...	901	91,529	836	81,131
Total British Vessels ...	<u>2,807</u>	<u>6,207,155</u>	<u>2,887</u>	<u>6,759,412</u>
American ...	18	72,641	40	205,407
Danish ...	20	53,306	21	58,651
Dutch ...	189	746,584	204	872,278
Finnish ...	2	4,984	—	—
French ...	122	574,372	134	631,935
German ...	108	430,725	143	565,888
Greek ...	—	—	1	2,946
Italian ...	60	223,853	90	336,154
Japanese ...	183	852,739	175	804,112
Norwegian ...	80	148,602	69	124,369
Panamanian ...	1	7,990	1	7,990
Russian ...	1	4,160	2	7,113
Spanish ...	16	33,895	16	38,021
Swedish ...	20	67,986	17	58,867
Total Foreign Vessels ...	<u>820</u>	<u>3,221,837</u>	<u>913</u>	<u>3,713,731</u>

Excluding warships, transports, and merchant vessels which called only to coal, the distribution according to the flag is shown below :—

Nationality.	1923.		1924.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
British ...	1,592	5,064,929	1,768	5,732,009
British Colonial ...	901	91,529	836	81,131
Total British Vessels	2,493	5,156,458	2,604	5,813,140
American ...	15	60,079	38	197,543
Danish ...	16	46,216	19	53,721
Dutch ...	168	676,117	181	785,155
French ...	121	569,362	133	631,527
German ...	97	388,039	129	514,071
Italian ...	57	213,383	76	288,394
Japanese ...	175	829,233	170	789,885
Norwegian ...	64	109,870	51	98,854
Panamanian ...	—	—	1	7,990
Russian ...	—	—	1	2,953
Spanish ...	16	33,895	16	38,021
Swedish ...	18	61,336	16	56,346
Total Foreign Vessels	747	2,987,530	831	3,464,460

CUSTOMS REVENUE.

The total duties collected by the Department in 1924 amounted to Rs. 36,859,240.89, exceeding the total of the previous year—in itself a record—by Rs. 3,547,328.65, an increase of 10.6 per cent. The increase is made up as follows :—

	Total of Increase.		Percentage of Increase.
	Rs.	c.	
Imports ...	2,254,001	37	9.1
Exports ...	1,278,997	8	14.9
Sundries ...	14,330	20	26.8

While the percentage increase is less than that of 1923 over 1922, *i.e.*, 10.6, as against 15.8 per cent., it must be noted that the increase in 1924 is due to purely natural causes, *i.e.*, there were no increases in tariff duties in 1924, whereas the 1923 increase was helped by additions to the duties on spirits, paddy, sugar, tea, and "other goods." Against this increase in duties must of course be off-set the decrease in rubber duty, but this latter was insufficient to counterbalance the advantage to 1923 revenue gained by the doubling of the duty on tea alone, the latter producing in 1923 an increase of two million odd rupees, as compared with a falling off on rubber of about Rs. 700,000. Tables are appended showing the increase in revenue collected at the several ports in the Island under the

main heads during the years 1923 and 1924, with the percentage of increase under each head :—

Statement of Nett Customs Revenue collected at the several
Ports in the Island of Ceylon from January 1 to
December 31, 1924.

Heads of Receipts.	Total Collections, 1923.		Total Collections, 1924.		Increase (+), Decrease (—), as compared with previous Year.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
HEAD I.—CUSTOMS.						
<i>Import Duties.</i>						
Cotton Manufactures ..	1,496,341	33	1,493,415	12	—	2,926 21 .. — 0.19
Grain ..	8,169,047	23	8,101,856	53	—	67,190 70 .. — 0.82
Kerosine Oil ..	2,406,435	91	2,522,271	71	+	115,835 80 .. + 4.8
Spirits and Cordials ..	2,389,693	2	2,854,249	73	+	464,556 71 .. +19.4
Sugar ..	1,757,395	56	2,216,706	54	+	459,310 98 .. +26.1
Other Goods ..	8,511,182	5	9,795,596	84	+	1,284,414 79 .. +15.0
(a) Total Import Duties	24,730,095	10	26,984,096	47	+	2,254,001 37 .. + 9.1
<i>Export Duties.</i>						
Cacao ..	92,099	56	105,073	70	+	12,974 14 .. +14.0
Coconut, desiccated ..	689,920	87	734,471	81	+	44,550 94 .. + 6.4
Coconuts, fresh ..	47,662	85	87,314	68	+	39,651 83 .. +83.1
Coconut Oil ..	359,578	87	418,242	73	+	58,663 86 .. +16.2
Copra ..	610,091	65	1,059,715	84	+	449,624 19 .. +73.7
Plumbago ..	46,322	89	39,873	73	—	6,449 16 .. —13.9
Poonac ..	37,101	56	54,919	57	+	17,818 1 .. +48.0
Rubber ..	1,464,196	67	1,452,003	80	—	12,192 87 .. — 0.83
Tea ..	5,181,806	54	5,852,533	3	+	670,726 49 .. +12.9
Other ..	14,167	10	17,796	75	+	3,629 65 .. +25.6
(b) Total Export Duties	8,542,948	56	9,821,945	64	+	1,278,997 8 .. +14.9
Sundries ..	38,868	58	53,198	78	+	14,330 20 .. +26.8
Grand Total ..	33,311,912	24	36,859,240	89	+	3,547,328 65 .. +10.6
HEAD II.—PORT, HARBOUR, WAREHOUSE, AND OTHER DUES.						
<i>Revenue of Colombo Harbour.</i>						
Harbour Dues ..	2,373,360	35	2,724,849	3	+	351,488 68
Warehouse Rent ..	605,555	99	646,908	68	+	41,352 69
Lake to Harbour Dues ..	8,498	28	11,706	86	+	3,208 58
Other Rents ..	333,840	95	327,977	18	—	5,863 77
Pilotage ..	190,156	24	217,278	69	+	27,122 45
Railway Traffic ..	31,771	84	65,480	90	+	33,709 6
Other Harbour Collec- tions ..	103,583	54	187,491	5	+	83,907 51
Revenue of Oil Installa- tions ..	725,590	98	1,106,440	53	+	380,849 55
<i>Dues leviable at Outports.</i>						
Port Dues ..	29,601	56	33,803	78	+	4,202 22
Warehouse Rent ..	80,130	7	72,241	36	—	7,888 71
Other ..	13,442	0	14,707	50	+	1,265 50
Grand Total ..	4,495,531	80	5,408,885	56	+	913,353 76 .. +23.1
HEAD IV.—FEES OF COURT OR OFFICE.						
Medical Aid (Export Duties) ..	912,169	75	941,989	31	+	29,819 56
Sundries ..	5,617	63	5,420	21	—	197 42
Grand Total ..	917,787	38	947,409	52	+	29,622 14 .. + 3.2

The only two main import heads which have remained more or less stationary are cotton manufactures and grain, both of which show a decrease by a fractional percentage. These are off-set by large increases in the duty derived from sugar (26 per cent.), spirits and cordials (19.4 per cent.), and " other goods " (15 per cent.).

Turning to exports, large increases will be noticed under the heads coconuts fresh (83 per cent.), copra (73 per cent.), and poonac (48 per cent.). Rubber, as could only be expected under the present artificial conditions of export, remained practically stationary, while tea, which furnishes over half the export revenue, showed a satisfactory increase of nearly 13 per cent. Cacao (14 per cent.) and coconut oil (16.2 per cent.) also improved upon last year's figures. Plumbago alone fell off (by 13 per cent.).

The revenue would have been greater but for the rise in the rate of exchange during the latter half of the year from about 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 6d. which materially affects the recoveries of *ad valorem* duties on goods from the United Kingdom and foreign countries.

The continued increase in the revenue derived from spirits and cordials, not attributable in any way this year to an increase in duty, is significant in view of the closing of arrack and toddy taverns throughout the Colony.

Oil Facilities at Colombo.—The oil trade continues to improve, and the number of ships calling at Colombo for oil fuel bunkers has increased rapidly. The pipes for the duplication of the 10-inch fuel oil pipeline are on order, and the work of laying the pipes will be commenced as soon as they are received. It is anticipated that this additional facility will be available in about twelve months. Two new steam-driven pumps are being ordered to replace the present fuel oil and kerosine and petrol pumps at the Boosting Station at the Graving Dock.

Owing to complaints received from the oil companies regarding the inadequacy of the accommodation for the storage of fuel oil allowed to them at Bloemendahl, the Imperial Government has approved of permission being granted to each oil company to erect two or more measuring tanks at Bloemendahl, provided that the total capacity of the tanks does not exceed 5,000 tons, and that the quantity stored at any one time, except with special permission, does not exceed 3,000 tons.

The question of making the Outer Oil Bunkering Jetty and the Oil Discharge Jetty fully usable during both monsoons has engaged the attention of the Colombo Port Commission during the year, and it is hoped shortly to arrive at a satisfactory

solution of the difficulties encountered. The work of dredging the approach channel to the Graving Dock Guide Pier and Oil Discharge Jetty to 33 feet below L.W.O.S.T. made good progress. One of the dredgers was continuously employed on this work. All rock in the vicinity of the Graving Dock Guide Pier is now believed to have been removed with a few minor exceptions, and the proving of the depth by sweeping is now in progress.

During the year 1924, 55 vessels discharged the following quantities of oil :—

	Tons.
Liquid fuel	235,758
Kerosine	26,198
Benzine and petrol	14,997

and 253 vessels were bunkered with a total quantity of 137,597 tons of liquid fuel.

During the year the following reductions in the Port oil charges were made :—

- (a) The maintenance charge was reduced from 75 cents per ton (Rs. 3 per 1,000 gallons) to 65 cents per ton (Rs. 2.60 per 1,000 gallons) with effect from October 1, 1924.
- (b) The special charges for mooring and unmooring oil vessels at the Graving Dock Guide Pier and at the oil jetties were also abolished with effect from October 1, 1924.

Lake to Harbour Canal.—The canal, locks, and warehouses were maintained satisfactorily during the year. The fendering of quay walls is almost complete. The connecting channel between the Main Line Basin and the East Lake for 40-ton harbour barges was tested during the year with a fully loaded barge, and the depth was found to be sufficient. Mill owners on the Lake have been informed that, if they intend to make use of 40-ton harbour barges, loading stages will have to be erected, and, if they point out the positions selected for these stages to the Engineer-in-Charge, Lake Development Scheme, the latter will carry out the necessary buoying and dredging.

The traffic on the canal is gradually increasing. The total traffic since the opening of the locks in November, 1922, has been as follows :—

	Tons.
November and December, 1922	2,054
January to December, 1923	28,328
January to December, 1924	38,139

A total number of 4,662 lighters, motor launches, and other small craft passed through the Lake to Harbour Canal in 1924, as against 3,686 in 1923.

The receipts from the lock charges, Lake to Harbour Canal, during the year were Rs. 11,807.36.

Deepening of the Harbour.—In view of a scheme adopted by the Suez Canal authorities in 1921 by which vessels of 35 feet draught will ultimately be allowed to pass through the canal, the question of the advisability of adopting a further programme of deepening Colombo Harbour was referred by Government to the Imperial Shipping Committee in England. This Committee considered the matter from the point of view of the likelihood of ships with a draught exceeding 33 feet being built for the Eastern and Australian trades *via* the Suez Canal within the next 15 to 20 years. In the report of the Imperial Shipping Committee, which has already been published, the Committee expressed the opinion that ships with a greater draught than 33 feet are not likely to be built for the Eastern and Australian trades in the next ten years. They therefore saw no present justification for a general deepening of the Colombo Harbour, if it should appear that the cost is likely to be very large. The utmost which the present outlook would, in their opinion justify, is a programme limited to one or two deeper berths, if they can be provided at a cost which will not involve any increase in the dues. The Colombo Port Commission does not anticipate any difficulty at present in providing one or two berths for ships drawing 35 or 36 feet to keep abreast of the Suez Canal programme. One such berth can be made available in about two years, without any very considerable additional cost.

The present programme of the Colombo Port Commission is to deepen the outer portion of the harbour to 36 feet, and the areas near the foreshore to 33 feet and 30 feet respectively. All the berths in the 36-foot area are expected to be available in about 8 years, but the deepening of the northern entrance will take longer. The Colombo Port Commission is well abreast of the Suez Canal Scheme, as ships with a draught of 33 feet can already be accommodated in the harbour. There are at present two berths in each monsoon available for vessels of 33 feet, and it is hoped that three more berths in each monsoon for vessels of this draught will be available in another eighteen months. The authorized draught of vessels passing through the Suez Canal is now 32 feet.

Moorings for Larger Ships.—The new scheme of moorings for larger ships drawn up by Mr. A. D. Prouse, late Harbour Engineer, was held over till the arrival of the new Master Attendant, as both the new Harbour Engineer and the Acting Master Attendant considered that several modifications would be required before it could be adopted. The question whether it would be desirable to alter the present moorings to the extent contemplated by this scheme was also considered. The question is still being investigated. In the meantime work is proceeding

on the scheme drawn up by the Consulting Engineers in 1922, which provides for 2 berths for 600 feet vessels, two berths for 700 feet vessels, and one berth for vessels of unlimited length—all in both monsoons. There will also be an extra berth for 600 feet vessels in the north-east monsoon. This scheme is considered adequate to meet present requirements.

New Custom House at the Passenger Jetty.—The final plans of the new Customs House at the Passenger Jetty are now being prepared by the Director of Public Works. A sum of Rs. 200,000 has been provided by Government in the current financial year's Budget, and a start is just about to be made with the work. It will be necessary to demolish two bays of Fort 1 (imports) warehouse, and another part of Fort 1 warehouse will be adapted as a temporary baggage office during the work of construction.

Quarters and Housing of Labour.—Owing to the necessity for adequately housing the Port Commission and Customs officers a scheme was drawn up in 1923 for providing quarters for these officers. Five bungalows for officers of the Harbour Engineer's Department have so far been built on the site of the old St. Thomas's College. Two bungalows for Customs Preventive Officers and two sets of quarters for watchers of the Customs Preventive Staff have also been erected near Fisher's Hill, Mutwal. Another bungalow for the use of the Charges Officer, Customs, was completed in December last on the site of old "Cliff House," near the fishery harbour. A further scheme is now being considered, and a scheme for the housing of the labour employed on the harbour works who live in the slums of Kochchikadde is being drawn up.

The nett tonnage of vessels (sailing and steam) which visited Colombo Harbour in 1924 amounted to 10,013,951 tons; in addition 58 warships and transports with a gross tonnage of 176,414 tons, and 61 coasting vessels with a nett tonnage of 64,212 tons, entered the port.

The number of merchant ships of all nationalities and their tonnage visiting the port in 1913, 1923, and 1924 were as follows:—

				Number of Vessels.		Tonnage.
1913	...	...	...	2,979	...	9,475,893
1923	...	...	...	2,563	...	9,006,640
1924	...	...	...	2,773	...	10,013,951

Graving Dock and Patent Slip.—Thirty-six vessels were docked during the year, and 37 vessels were taken on the Patent Slip; 9 vessels were fumigated.

The receipts from the Graving Dock and Patent Slip brought to account during the year 1924 were Rs. 130,782.09 and Rs. 5,354.22 respectively. The former shows an increase of Rs. 84,579.69 over the previous year's figure, Rs. 46,202.40, and was due to the increase in the number of ships docked during 1924. The Patent Slip was used in 1924 by a less number of vessels than in the previous year, and this accounts for the decrease of Rs. 2,490.21 in the receipts, as compared with Rs. 7,844.43 received in the previous year. Rs. 2,495 was received in respect of fumigation, as against Rs. 1,657.50 in 1923.

The total expenditure of the Colombo Port Commission for the financial year 1923-1924, including Rs. 337,336.65 chargeable to Loan Account in respect of the Oil Installations Scheme, Dredging Colombo Harbour, and Government Housing Scheme, was Rs. 2,638,310.51. Of this amount Rs. 5,333.60 was expended by the Public Works Department on work for this Department, and a sum of Rs. 90,754.88 was expended by the Colombo Port Commission on account of other Departments. The nett expenditure on Colombo Port Commission services, inclusive of loan expenditure, was Rs. 2,542,222.03. The revenue during the same period was Rs. 5,157,984.53, inclusive of Rs. 1,083,458.04 from the oil charges levied at the port and rent of the oil depôts.

IV.—LAND.

LAND SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT.

DURING the year under review 87,762 acres of all classes of land have been settled and only three claims have had to be referred to the courts for adjudication.

Since 1901 settlement surveys covering an area of 4,785,858 acres have been issued to the Department and the settlement of 3,666,537 acres is complete, leaving a balance of 1,119,321 acres in hand. Of this balance area approximately 739,000 acres lie in the North-Central Province, 80,000 in the Ratnapura District, 53,000 in the North-Western Province, 213,000 in the Southern Province, and 18,000 in Uva, with smaller areas in Kegalla, Kalutara, Colombo, Matale, and Trincomalee Districts. The large area in the North-Central Province includes 707,000 acres in the Tamankaduwa division, which has been taken up in connection with the Batticaloa-Trincomalee Light Railway. This area has been surveyed on topographical plans and can be speedily settled. The bulk of the acreage in the

Southern Province, apart from 155,000 acres in the Hambantota District done on topographical plans, lies in the Bentota-Walallawiti korale and presents no great difficulties. The real work lies in the Ratnapura District and the North-Western Province where land is in demand for tea and rubber and in the North-Western Province for coconut cultivation. Nearly 145,570 acres of new block surveys and 700,635 acres of topographical surveys were issued during 1924 for settlement purposes. The Settlement Department will have to be strengthened to cope with this increased output.

FORESTS.

Reforestation.—During the year 1924 the areas under planting operations were increased from 11,151 acres to 12,973 acres. These include 458 acres of teak plantations formed by means of chena reforestation in the Eastern Division (south), 385 acres partly patana planting and partly on areas felled for fuel supplies in the Uva Division, 261 acres of coppice fellings, into which mahogany is introduced, in the Southern Division (west), 184 acres of mahogany and nedun plantations and coppice fellings in the North-Western Division, and 275 acres of gum and cypress plantations in the Central Division. The Eastern Division (south) excluded 608 acres of old chena reforestation areas, according to instructions issued to strike off, after detailed inspection, areas which are incapable of improvement, in order that correct estimates may be prepared for the improvement and management of productive areas. These plantations were formed at no cost, the work being done by cultivators in return for permission to practice chena cultivation.

Exploitation.—The value of supplies extracted by Departmental Agency, for Government Departments, for which the Department receives paper credit only, was Rs. 1,452,637, against Rs. 1,574,406 for the previous year. These supplies include 21,881 broad gauge sleepers and 21,048 narrow gauge sleepers, 407,770 cubic yards of firewood for the Railway, and 145,401 cubic feet of timber (hardwoods) delivered to the Railway Department, the Harbour Engineer's Department, the Postal Department, and the Government Factory. 173,399 pieces of small round timber were removed by Public Departments on licences, as well as minor forest produce, in addition to material extracted by the Public Works Department, the Irrigation and Railway Construction Departments, from forest land within their permanent or temporary jurisdiction, without Forest Department permits.

The number of Railway sleepers supplied by the Department since 1906 is 1,002,282 broad gauge at an average cost of Rs. 3.86, and 400,108 narrow gauge sleepers at an average of Re. 1.84. These have been extracted by means of unregulated exploitation, for the most part outside the Reserves and Proposed Reserves, which it is now intended to bring under systematic working, on an area basis. The cost of Departmental extraction is considerably higher at the present time than the average shown above, but the Department is still able to effect considerable reduction on the cost of imported sleepers, and as soon as systematic exploitation has become general in the divisions which supply this material, a larger outturn may be expected at somewhat lower rates than those obtained in the present methods of unregulated exploitation, with a multiplicity of larger or smaller contracts.

The revenue received from the public on account of timber, fuel, and minor produce during the year was Rs. 558,103, an appreciable increase over the sum realized in 1923, viz., Rs. 428,714, and an estimated revenue of Rs. 450,000 for the year under review. The increase is mainly due to the revival of the market for satinwood for export, and the high prices obtained for timber of good quality, the Central Timber Dépôt returning a revenue of Rs. 128,732.04, against Rs. 50,515.63 in 1923. This revenue would have been larger had it been possible to stock the dépôt and hold regular monthly sales, and every endeavour is now being made to have timber available for the advertisement of 40 logs per mensem for public auction. The best timber for sale purposes is obtained from the Eastern Division (south), which is the most remote division from Colombo, and at present not connected by rail, and extraction and shipment is a long and difficult process.

COMMENTS ON FEATURES OF THE 1923 REPORT.

(1) Coppicing in clear felling contracts in the dry zone has not proved sufficiently successful to re-stock these areas for future fuel supplies, without the introduction, by artificial means, of coppicing species. The forests are too old for coppice regeneration. The areas are therefore dealt with in one of two ways. Where there is a permanent demand for firewood and available forest is limited, natural coppice is assisted by the introduction of species known to coppice successfully, and such areas are fully stocked. Where large forest areas exist, and no necessity arises of regenerating them for fuel supplies, natural regeneration of valuable timber species is aimed at, by methods which are not yet sufficiently advanced to be standardized, but which have proved very successful locally. The method roughly follows the European methods of

regeneration fellings, the cover being removed gradually over a given period of time, standards of valuable and inferior species being retained so as to provide uniform light cover. The removal of weed and grass is combined with a soil wounding operation carried out at the time of the seedfall, and where seedbearers of valuable species are plentiful, results have followed which entirely justify the procedure, and the most valuable hardwoods of satinwood, palu, ranai, and milla are making their appearance freely. A period of five years is tentatively being allotted to secure complete regeneration, after which artificial stocking will supply the remaining vacancies. This method is in furtherance of a project to assemble the valuable species in centralized accessible areas, and to lay the foundations of perennial supplies under fixed working plans, when the large tracts of forest land, with their low contents of valuable timber, have been systematically worked over. Where fuel is required, the preliminary opening of the cover is effected by fuel extraction, under regulated management, without cost to the Department, subsequent attention involving very low expenditure on the planting vote. Where fuel cannot be extracted, the whole cost of the operation falls on the Departmental vote, with the additional disadvantage that felled material lies on the ground without disposal or removal.

In fuel areas in the wet zone, coppice fellings combined with the planting of mahogany have continued to be successful, but the presence of the mahogany borer has already been detected, and it will be necessary, if the attack becomes general, to have another, safe, species on which to fall back. For this purpose Pehimbiya (*Filicium decipiens*), is indicated and will be tried experimentally.

(2) Stock taking in the Kanthalai Reserve of the Eastern Division (north) was followed by a more elaborate scheme of demarcation and enumeration of felling coupes in the Omunugala Proposed Reserve of the Eastern Division (south) for purposes of immediate exploitation, which is now commencing, improvement, and regeneration. During the year six square miles of forest were demarcated into rectangular coupes of half a square mile, and enumerated in the following classes :—

A.—Trees over 5 Feet in Girth at Breast Height.

First Class.

- I. Satinwood for export sale at the Central Timber Dépôt.
- II. Satinwood, palu, halmilla, ranai, and milla for supplies of timber in the log for Government Departments or for sale purposes.
- III. The same species for sleeper supplies.

The results were as follows :—

I. 273 logs = 16,571 cubic feet valued at Rs. 13 per cubic foot in Colombo.			
II. Satinwood	..	549	} = 1,000 logs = 43,086 cubic feet.
Halmilla	..	134	
Milla	..	119	
Ranai	..	198	
III. Satinwood	..	689	} = 1,939 logs = 54,882 cubic feet with an estimated out-turn of 10,180 broad gauge and 2,893 narrow gauge sleepers.
Milla	..	755	
Ranai	..	440	
Palu	..	55	

B.—Trees from 3 Feet to 5 Feet Girth at Breast Height.

Satinwood	..	..	1,843
Halmilla	..	..	2,374
Ranai	..	..	2,426
Milla	..	..	983
Total			7,626 trees

The combined yield of A and B is thus 11,111 trees over an area of six square miles, or slightly under one exploitable tree per acre now, and two per acre in the second felling rotation. the rotation being tentatively fixed at 40 years. Much of the satinwood enumerated for extraction for export sales is of very large size. Logs are being sent to Colombo up to 10 to 12 feet in girth. If these turn out to be flowered logs, fantastic prices will be realized, Rs. 35 per cubic foot being frequently offered for the best flowered logs. Such timber is fast reaching the point of over-maturity, and it is necessary that expenditure should be incurred for complete enumeration of the productive forests without delay, the cost of such work being incorporated gradually in the cost of supplies delivered, to which it adds an insignificant trifle, the work undertaken during the year adding 5 cents to the cost of a sleeper and less than 1 cent per cubic foot to the cost of timber in the log.

(3) *Plan for Supply of Tea Chests from Up-country Forests.*—The expenditure required for the erection of plant for the conversion of indigenous timber to be removed from the forests, to render the scheme feasible, was withdrawn from the Estimates for 1924-25, owing to discrepancies in the estimated outturn of such material, and conflicting views regarding its marketability. It was accordingly decided that as the proportion of utilizable material in the forests is very low, compared with tree growth which would have to be destroyed, in order to clear the areas, it would be preferable to endeavour to sell the valuable material standing, rather than to incur the cost and risk of establishing a large dépôt. In addition, further time and experience is required to test the growth of the exotic conifers intended to be introduced, and final proposals are being postponed pending the collection of reliable data regarding their success or failure.

(4) The lease of 1,000 acres of wet zone forests on easy terms for the production of native tea and rubber chests, though signed, was not taken up, and lapsed through default.

(5) *Afforestation of the Uva Patanas for Timber and Fuel.*—Progress was made in securing patana land for afforestation, rendering a planting programme feasible for 15 years, at the rate of 200 acres per annum. Little difficulty is anticipated in securing additional land at the end of this period, but it has not yet been made available, and the question will depend on the success of the undertaking. The planting of areas required for fuel supplies will be completed in 1925, after which the timber areas will be commenced.

(6) *Utilization of Forests in the Vicinity of the Main Line between Polgahawela and Veyangoda for Fuel Supplies and Reforestation.*—This has not been developed, mainly owing to the drop in the price of coal, and the tendency of the Railway Department to discontinue the use of wood fuel. The areas are also not yet in requisition for reforestation, as jak planting at Mirigama is not yet complete.

(7) The development of jak and nedun plantations is proceeding satisfactorily. In addition to the main jak area at Mirigama which comprises the planting of 200 acres per annum, it is hoped to arrange for the creation of small jak plantations in proximity to small towns, for local sale only, thereby enabling local purchasers to secure their supplies as cheaply as possible without long rail transport.

(8) The establishment of arboreta and central nurseries at Nuwara Eliya has been dropped for the time being, owing to local opposition.

(9) The proposal to develop plantations of Australian wattles for the tanning bark industry is also in abeyance, as land cannot be made available for the purpose up-country. Experiments are being conducted with the required species in other localities, but results are not yet to hand.

(10) *Afforestation by Estates.*—The facilities granted by Government, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, to lease suitable Crown land adjoining tea estates for afforestation with fuel species, have so far met with no response, and no application for such land has yet been received.

(11) A Development Branch has been opened in the Office of the Conservator of Forests during the year. Preliminary work in this branch has consisted of a general survey of reforestation already carried out, and the introduction of better

means of control of expenditure and preparation of estimates, and this branch will later take up the detailed planning of commercial reforestation, in its various forms, and exploitation.

SALT.

The manufacture, collection, and sale of Ceylon salt are a Government monopoly, which is protected by a duty of Rs. 3 per cwt. on all imported salt. The amount realized by its sale in 1924 was Rs. 1,746,585.90, as against Rs. 1,767,421.82 in 1923 and Rs. 1,472,692.93 in 1922.

2. The local production of salt was very unsatisfactory. The salt pans at Chiviyateru in the Northern Province were closed down owing to the consistently bad quality of the salt manufactured. Unseasonable rains prevented any collection of salt at all at the Hambantota Lewayas, and only a few manufacturers at Puttalam took out licences. The above causes resulted in a very poor crop. The total yield for the Island during 1924 was only 185,261 cwt., as against 565,576 cwt. in 1923 and 779,943 cwt. in 1922. The distribution of the harvest was as follows :—

	Cwt.
Puttalam District	8,622
Jaffna District	29,522
Elephant Pass (Government Saltern)	144,375
Palavi (Government Saltern)	2,742
Total	185,261

The figures for Puttalam District are based on estimates of inweighed salt in manufacturers' kottus and the usual increase of 25 to 30 per cent. which may be expected on these estimates will not materially affect the total output, which represents less than one-third of a year's supply for the Island's consumption.

3. The usual selling price at the Government salt stores is Rs. 3 per cwt., except at the Government check stores at Haputale and Galle, where the salt is sold in limited quantities at Rs. 5.25 and Rs. 4 per cwt., respectively, to pay for cost of transport from the source of supply. Salt is also sold to retail dealers and fish curers at a uniform rate of Rs. 3.36 per cwt. *ex* Government stores at Batticaloa, Kalmunai, Akkarai pattu, and Pottuvil in the Eastern Province.

4. The total stocks in the Island at the end of 1924 amounted to 641,998 cwt. including 80,818 cwt. of unweighed salt at Puttalam, referred to in paragraph 2 above, or roughly about 663,000 cwt.

5. The reorganization of the Salt Department under the direction of the Salt Adviser was continued during 1924. A large amount of construction work was done at Elephant Pass, mainly to increase the size of the storage platform and the area of the crystallizing beds and to instal mechanical appliances for transport and stacking of salt. The saltern is now nearly completed. The manufacturing season was very favourable and the crop harvested amounted to 144,375 cwt. At Palavi, construction work was continued in enclosing the brine reservoir with a permanent bund and in providing quarters for officers. The manufacturing season was very unfavourable, showers falling at short intervals during the usually dry months, and the crop harvested was only 2,472 cwt. Sales of salt from the Elephant Pass and Palavi platforms to the public were continued by the Salt Adviser throughout the year and 136,859 cwt. were sold up to December 31, a sum of Rs. 410,577 being realized by these sales.

MINERAL SURVEY.

An exhaustive examination was made during the early part of the year of laterite deposits, as a possible raw material for the manufacture of alum. The amount of material available is practically unlimited. Alumina can be extracted by simple digestion with sulphuric acid, but it remains to be proved whether the process can be worked economically.

A shipment of 25 tons of monazite sand was made in April and some trial consignments of ilmenite sand, containing 50 per cent. of titanium dioxide, have been sold for the production of titanium pigments.

Prospecting for the source of the gems in the Ratnapura alluvial gravels was continued with inconclusive results.

In July the offices of Government Mineralogist and Salt Adviser were amalgamated and the necessity of frequent inspections of the Government Salterns restricted field work.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

The principal operations of the Survey Department for the period under review comprised Block, Application, Topographical, Irrigation, Forest and Town Surveys, and Levelling operations.

Block Surveys.—These consisted of 169,561 acres of new work, 103,966 acres of topographical inset surveys, and 1,784 acres of town surveys.

The following plans were issued during the year :—

Block survey plans of 188 villages, containing 20,256 lots covering an area of 156,948 acres. Six topographical preliminary plans, containing 1,592 lots covering an area of 700,636 acres.

Surveys of 103 settlement and demarcation questions, together with the surveys of 418 Settlement Officer's applications were completed and sent to the Settlement Officer.

Seventy-nine advance extract plans consisting of 442 lots and covering an area of 2,541 acres were issued in connection with the surveys of Crown requisitions and applications in the block survey areas.

The total area now covered by block surveys is 2,761,762 acres, topographical inset surveys 2,072,949 acres.

Application Surveys.—Final village plans to the number of 140 for 297,378 acres in 5,734 lots were issued to the Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents during the year. The total area covered by the final plans in the hands of the Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents now stands at 1,893,500 acres, contained in 61,936 lots on 2,931 final plans.

Preliminary plans to the number of 1,447 for 37,384 acres in 7,401 lots were forwarded to the Government Agents, Assistant Government Agents, and the Settlement Officer.

Supplementary surveys to the number of 545 consisting of 3,338 lots covering 14,522 acres have been made and marked on final village plans and preliminary plans already issued.

Applications to the number of 795, covering 2,371 acres, were surveyed for paddy; 194 applications, covering 3,775 acres, for tea; 63 applications, covering 291 acres, for rubber; 22 applications, covering 1,304 acres, for tea and rubber; 30 applications, covering 3,852 acres, for rubber and coconuts; 469 applications, covering 1,876 acres, for coconuts; 899 applications, covering 4,327 acres, for native cultivations; 413 applications, covering 687 acres, for building purposes; and 65 applications, covering 981 acres, for citronella.

There has been a slight increase in the demand for land during the year.

Numerous surveys have been carried out for acquisitions in connection with important public purposes, and 177 acquisition preliminary plans for 332 acres in 1,042 lots were forwarded to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Topographical Surveys.—During the year under review the topographical contour survey of the Island has been completed, with the exception of a few small islands in the north, which will be completed early next year. The area covered this year amounts to 4,151 square miles. The completion of this work will enable the Survey Department to issue the first Layer Map of Ceylon to the public in the near future.

Forest Surveys.—Forest surveys work was carried out in the Southern and Eastern Provinces during 1924.

In the Southern Province surveys were carried out of the following forests:—Panilkanda (1,505 acres), Olebedda (943 acres), and Yakkatuwa (1,033 acres), and the plans are in course of preparation.

In addition, the surveys of Polhunnawa and Urugaha forests were taken up and are still in hand.

In the Eastern Province the boundaries of Nuwaragala and Omunagala reserves, covering about 280,000 acres, were defined with 500 landmarks and the plans are in course of preparation.

Irrigation Surveys.—Irrigation surveys were carried out in the Eastern Province.

1. Unichchai Scheme:—The surveys of the whole area, covering about 9,500 acres, were completed and the plans are in course of preparation.

2. Kantalai Scheme:—The plans of about 500 acres under the Kantalai left bank scheme, which were surveyed in 1923, were forwarded to the Assistant Government Agent, Trincomalee, this year.

Town Surveys.—New town plans were issued for the remainder of Colombo town, the two-chain area of Anuradhapura town, and the north-central portion of Batticaloa town.

The total area of town survey work now amounts to 19,666 acres.

Levelling.—The levelling operations consisted of new precise levels of the Colombo-Puttalam line and the Bibile-Chenkaladi line.

Bench Marks.—Fundamental bench marks, of a design similar to that adopted by the British Ordnance Survey, were constructed at Diyatalawa, Bibile, Alut-oya, Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, and Kandy. It is intended to establish these bench marks at distances of roughly 30 miles along the main lines of the new net to be levelled. Intermediate bench marks (concrete blocks at mile stones and surface marks at half-mile stones) were constructed along 210 miles of road, and the bench marking of 362 miles of road, to be relevelled for inclusion in the level net, was supplemented with new type bench marks.

METEOROLOGY.

General Remarks.—There is a marked variation in climate between the different parts of Ceylon. In the low-country with a mean temperature of the order of 80° F, a noticeable feature is the small range of both temperature and pressure. There is,

however, wide divergence between the moist conditions in the south-west of the Island, where the average annual rainfall varies from 100 to over 200 inches, and the dry zone areas of the north, north-west, and south-east.

Altitudes up to 8,000 feet occur inland, and there the temperature is cooler, and shows a bigger range. There is a corresponding change in vegetation, and the conditions are altogether more akin to those in the temperate zone.

Rainfall.—The area in which the total rainfall of 1924 was above average included practically all the south-west quadrant of the Island, and extended along the south coast, and also up the west coast nearly to Puttalam. It also included an appreciable area north of the main hill country (*e.g.*, Nalanda, Dambulla) and parts of the Eastern Province (notably in the south of that Province). In the central hills there were variations both above and below average with a slight preponderance of the latter. Practically the whole of the north of the Island and the greater part of the east side had deficient rainfall, comprising in all an area about equal to that in which the rain was above average. As regards individual stations, Carney (Adam's Peak) once again leads with 288.7 inches, Kenilworth being next with 233.1. At the former station the average is 231.8, so that the offset is 56.9 inches above it. Other stations with offsets of over 50 inches were Aningkanda and Urubokka, while offsets of over 40 inches were recorded at Labugama, Keragala, and Panilkanda. The offset at Colombo was within a few points of 40 inches, and though not quite so great as those mentioned above caused sufficient inconvenience to attract some attention.

September 29-30 holds the record for the highest fall in 24 hours, a list of 46 stations at which over 5 inches fell on that day being headed by Maliboda and Carney with approximately 12 inches each.

At the other extreme Marichchukkaddi (the Pearl Fishery station) still holds the minimum average (34.3), but the lowest totals for the year were recorded rather further north. Elephant Pass Saltern (22.9) leads from the Elephant Pass Public Works Department station (28.2). Other stations under 40 inches were Killinochchi, Pallai, and (in the south-east area) Panama.

Temperature.—In 1924 only one station, Nuwara Eliya, had a mean temperature that differed by as much as a degree from its own average, namely, 60.4 or 1.2° F above its average of 59.2. This station is the highest at which regular observations are made (6,000 feet) and hence is usually the one at which the lowest temperatures are recorded. This year its air

temperature on one occasion got below freezing point (31.6° on December 28), and the surface thermometer, which is usually a trifle lower than the air thermometers, got below 32° F on nine occasions. Its record minimum air temperature is 27.1° F, which was recorded on February 8, 1914. At the other extreme Trincomalee holds the records both for highest average shade temperature (82.9° F) and highest shade temperature on record (103.7° F on May 12, 1890). The corresponding figures at that station for 1924 were 82.8 and 97.6, though the highest shade temperature recorded in the Island during the year was 98.9 at Anuradhapura on September 7.

At Colombo the mean temperature of the year was 81.0° or 0.2 above its average of 80.8° . The extreme readings were 93.5 and 66.7—both recorded during March.

The mean daily range, *i.e.*, the difference between the mean of the maximum and the mean of the minimum, was highest at Badulla (17.6° F) and lowest at Galle (7.8° F). At Colombo and Kandy it was 11.9° F and 16.0° F respectively. The absolute range for the year, *i.e.*, the difference between the highest and the lowest readings actually recorded at any one station was greatest at Nuwara Eliya (47.5° F) and lowest at Galle (19.3° F).

Y.—AGRICULTURE.

TEA.

THE tea industry has had another exceedingly prosperous year. Crops have been good and high prices have been maintained. The teas have been carefully manufactured and good quality has been maintained. The total exports amounted to 203,278,476 lb. of black tea and 1,651,831 lb. of green tea of a total value of Rs. 204,930,307, as against a total export of 181,939,731 lb. of a value of Rs. 185,686,387 during 1923.

Tea throughout the Island is looking healthy and vigorous as the result of liberal cultivation and manuring programmes which have been adopted during the past three years. Pests and diseases associated with defective cultivation have become less troublesome and crop yields are steadily increasing. Every endeavour is being made to enforce fine plucking, and careful attention continues to be given to manufacture in the factories in order that the high quality of Ceylon tea may be maintained. Considerable sums continue to be spent upon the improvement of factories and material improvements in the

housing accommodation for labourers continue to be made. The industry is endeavouring so to improve its buildings and factories as to comply with all the demands of modern requirements.

No very serious outbreaks of pests or diseases occurred during the year. Shot-hole borer is considerably less prevalent upon estates where good cultivation and liberal manuring has been practised, and the latest results of the investigations being made into this pest confirm that it can be controlled by the applications of manure which ensure vigorous growth of the tea bushes. Tea termites continue to be the most serious pests of tea in some districts and appear to be on the increase. Experiments are being made with fumigants. Tea tortrix was markedly prevalent in some districts and a systematic collection of egg-masses was carried out. An outbreak of nettle grub occurred in the Morawak korale towards the end of the year. Investigations into the " Witches broom " disease have been continued, and it appears probable that this disease is due to physiological causes connected with the physical or chemical composition of the soil. A larger number of diseased tea seedlings have been submitted to the Department of Agriculture for examination, and in all cases the trouble has been caused by soil organisms.

The total number of tea plants sold under permit during the year was 2,755,116—sufficient to plant up nearly 900 acres. There have also been some extensions of area which have been planted up from nurseries established upon the properties themselves. In the Central Province there has been a demand for small areas of land by small growers for tea cultivation. Lectures to small growers have been held by officers of the Agricultural Department in the Central Province at various centres, and there is no doubt that the result of these lectures is being shown in better and cleaner cultivation by the small growers and by a better comprehension of the regulations governing the control of pests and diseases.

The question of soil erosion which was brought to the notice of the agricultural industries in 1923 has received careful consideration during the year under review. There is no doubt that this is a question of outstanding importance to the Colony's planting industries and that it requires the most careful consideration. Losses of soil fertility from erosion have in the past been very considerable, but estates are endeavouring to prevent it as far as possible. Drains are receiving careful attention and their edges are being planted with close growing grasses, contour hedges are being established, and the use of leguminous cover crops tried. There

RUBBER TAPPING.



Platé, Limited, Colombo.

has been an increased demand for seed of the new types of green manure and cover plants, and imports of seed from other countries have been made by estate agencies and proprietors.

RUBBER.

The output of rubber was restricted throughout the whole year, the export percentages of standard output being 60 per cent. from January to July, 55 per cent. from August to October, and 50 per cent. for the months of November and December. The total export of Ceylon-produced rubber was 37,036 tons of a value of Rs. 63,749,711, as against 37,070 tons of a value of Rs. 73,594,349 in 1923. During the months of November and December 26,545 gallons of fluid rubber latex were exported, as against negligible quantities during the first ten months of the year, and it was therefore thought desirable to bring rubber latex exports under the effects of the Rubber Restriction Ordinance. The total number of rubber estates at the end of 1924 was 4,250 above 10 acres in extent and 24,432 under 10 acres. Their acreage amounted to 461,025 acres as follows :—

			Acres.
Estates of 10 acres and over	...	...	415,155
Estates of under 10 acres	...	...	45,870

It is estimated that 65 per cent. of the whole acreage is under European ownership and management.

The average price at local auctions was 75 cents per lb. for the whole year. In January and February the prices for top grades ranged around 78 cents per lb., but the prices declined to 52½ cents. per lb. for smoked sheet and 54½ cents. for contract crêpe in the month of June. Thereafter prices showed a continuous rise, until at the end of the year sales at Re. 1 per lb. were recorded. Throughout the year crêpe rubber has obtained a small premium over sheet rubber and fair exports of sole crêpe have been made.

Most estates continue to give close attention to diseases and make use of disinfectants for the prevention of those affecting the bark. Small growers, however, still pay out little attention to these diseases unless their properties border upon larger estates or they have been influenced by the Plant Pest and Disease Inspecting Officers of the Department of Agriculture. The manurial experiments being carried out with a view to ascertaining if pod and leaf disease can be controlled or influenced by means of manuring have been continued and investigations into brown bast are still being undertaken. Little interest has been shown during the year in the budding of rubber, but the Department of Agriculture and the Rubber Research Scheme hope to be able to induce estates to take the

preliminary steps of ascertaining their best yielding trees and of determining the constancy of the yield of such trees. The second year's examination of the yields of individual rubber trees of known parentage has been completed at the Experiment Station, Peradeniya, and the results have been published for general information. The Rubber Research Scheme has continued to do good work, which is appreciated by the industry, and it is hoped that it may be possible for this scheme at an early date to undertake detailed investigations in the budding of rubber and into the use of leguminous cover crops.

COCONUTS.

The exports of coconut products and their value during 1924, were as follows :—

					Value. Rs.
Coconuts, fresh	...	No.	29,121,041	...	2,499,088
Copra	...	Cwt.	1,769,189	...	31,008,191
Desiccated coconuts	...	Cwt.	871,341	...	21,963,695
Oil	...	Cwt.	552,633	...	15,826,782
Poonac	...	Cwt.	156,251	...	942,685
Fibre, bristle	...	Cwt.	168,247	...	2,024,939
Fibre, mattress	...	Cwt.	312,245	...	922,671
Coir yarn	...	Cwt.	117,199	...	2,140,753

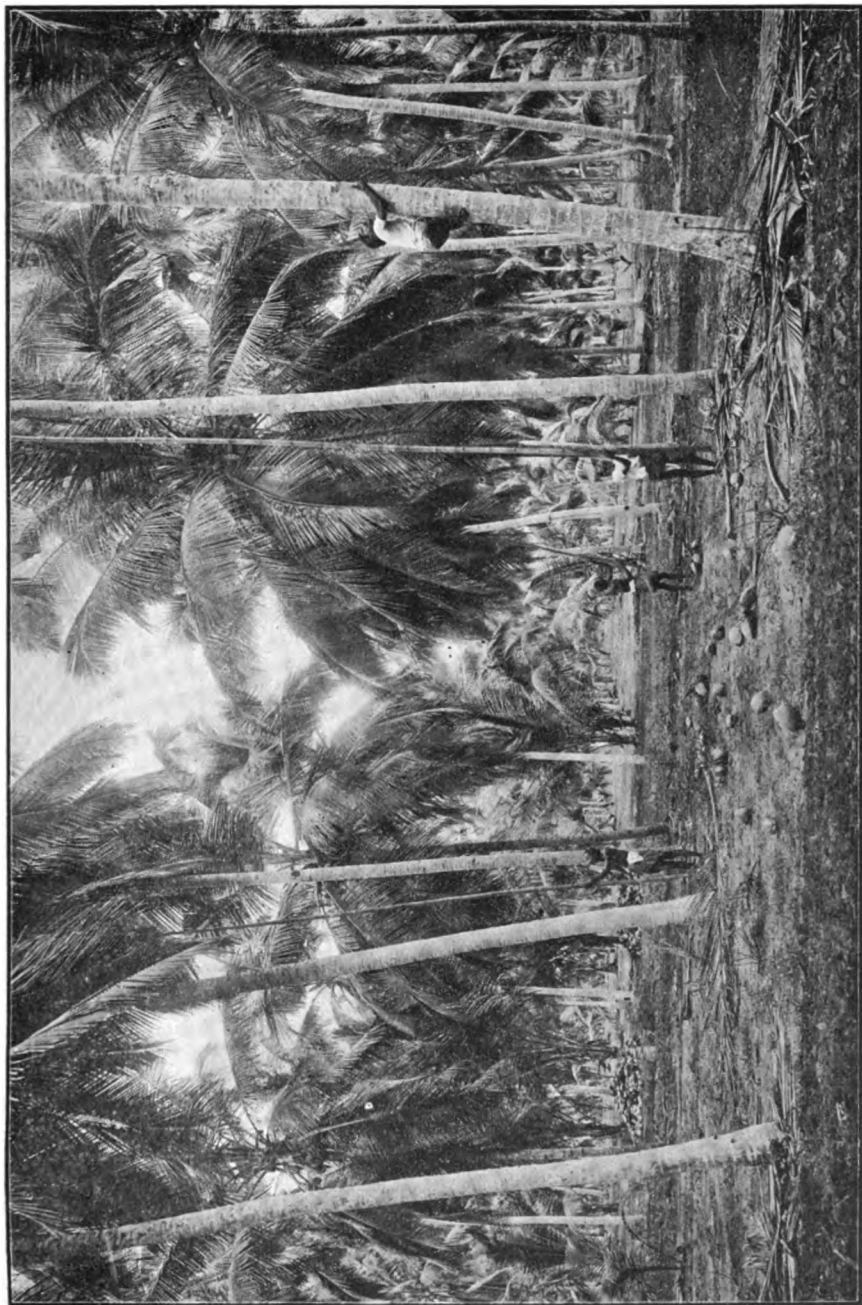
These exports show a large increase on the previous year. Exports of nuts showed a marked increase, there being a very keen demand from the United Kingdom and from Germany. Copra and coconut oil exports were considerably in excess of the 1923 figures, but were only slightly greater than the exports of the previous year. The exports of desiccated coconuts considerably increased, especially to Germany, Holland, and Australia. Exports of all grades of fibre also show increases.

The prices for coconut products were satisfactory, and the industry can be said to have had a favourable and prosperous year.

The coconut caterpillar—*Nephantis serinopa*—has been recorded from a large number of districts during the year but does not, at present, occasion serious damage in the wetter areas. Black beetle and red weevil continue to be prevalent in certain areas and active steps were taken during the year against these pests in the Matara District. Bud rot appear to be on the increase on some estates but is not very general. Leaf disease occurred on badly cultivated estates, but nutfall was considerably less during the year.

TOBACCO.

The tobacco season was a favourable one, but difficulties were experienced in regard to the disposal of the chewing type in India. In consequence, a large number of growers in the



Jaffna peninsula have decided to turn their attention to the cultivation of the Burley type for export to Europe, which has been experimented with for several years by the Department of Agriculture. Sixty-six growers have this year undertaken the growth of this tobacco, and the total acreage is approximately 40 acres. The prices for crop shipped to England during the year were satisfactory. This type of tobacco is well thought of on the English market and a constant demand appears to be assured. A Government purchase scheme has been inaugurated in connection with the growing of this Burley tobacco, but it is hoped before long to convert this into a co-operative agency amongst the growers themselves. It is probable that this type of tobacco can be grown in other parts of the Island, and now that its cultivation appears to have been established in the Jaffna peninsula trials will be made in other districts.

CACAO.

The exports of cacao were 69,351 cwt., valued at Rs. 2,464,103, as against 60,904 cwt. in 1923. The season was a fairly satisfactory one, and most estates harvested crops in excess of those obtained in the previous year. The weather conditions were on the whole rather too wet for cacao and a large amount of canker was in evidence in certain months. The percentage of "black" cacao although high was less than during the previous year. The quality of the first grades were up to the usual high standard of Ceylon cacaos. Further experiments on the fermentation of cacao were made during the year, and the resulting cacaos were examined by the scientific department of Messrs. Cadbury & Co. These experiments indicated that Ceylon cacaos are considered underfermented by some manufacturers, but that they command high prices on the world's markets by reason of their good appearance and uniform grading. The Peradeniya Chocolate Company continued operations during the year.

CARDAMOMS.

The weather conditions were favourable to this crop, but the exports amounted to only 2,667 cwt., as against 2,788 cwt. in 1923 and 4,096 cwt. during 1922. There is evidence that some of the cardamom plantations have declined in productivity and there is a tendency to replace with tea areas which are not yielding well. It is unlikely that there will be any extension of the area under cardamoms and exports are not expected to increase. Prices were steady throughout the first nine months.

of the year, but during the last three months there was a marked rise in value. A very keen demand for this product was evident.

FIBRES.

The experiments with cotton in the Hambantota District were a continued success. A total crop of 733 cwt. of seed cotton was obtained from cotton grown by small growers and sold at Rs. 25 per cwt. to the Spinning and Weaving Mills of Colombo. For the 1924-25 crop an area of 1,500 acres of cotton in the Hambantota District were being grown by small growers and in other districts further trials are being continued. The quality of the cotton was quite satisfactory.

During the year the opening of the sisal factory at Mahailluppalama took place and production of sisal began to be regularly made. The small sisal mill at the Experiment Station, Anuradhapura, has also worked during the year. Good quality fibre has been prepared and it has been very favourably reported upon by buyers in London. A price of £44. 15s. per ton was received from the Experiment Station fibre, and even higher prices have been obtained from the Mahailluppalama estate. There appears to be good prospects before sisal in Ceylon and further extension may be looked for.

The exports of Kapok amounted to 6,270 cwt. of a value of Rs. 350,604. Prices were lower than during the previous year.

CINNAMON.

The exports of this product were as follows :—

Cinnamon quills ...	...	...	...	Cwt.
Cinnamon chips ...	...	...	...	34,547
				12,937

The export of quills was nearly 2,000 cwt. in excess of the exports of the previous year. Prices were good and the demand for this product was keen. Methods of cultivation do not change and there is no extension of the planted area.

CITRONELLA.

The exports of citronella oil amounted to 1,433,381 lb. of a value of Rs. 2,941,291, as against 1,121,271 lb. of a value of Rs. 2,130,283 during 1923. The exports were the highest since 1915. The prices were fairly steady throughout the year, but showed a marked reduction on the prices of the previous year. The difficulties experienced in 1923 by reason of heavy adulterations with alcohol have started inquiries being made for guaranteed pure oil. This is, however, difficult to secure as adulteration with kerosene by the small middle man appears to be general.

PAPAIN.

The exports during the year amounted to 457 cwt. of a value of Rs. 317,893. The demand for Ceylon papain remained steady and satisfactory prices ruled during the year.

FOODSTUFFS.

The paddy crops were about average throughout the Island, but in some districts considerable damage was done by flooding. Prices ruled high during the middle of the year in consequence of the serious floods in South India, but towards the end of the year the price of rice fell considerably.

The selection of high-yielding pure line strains of paddy by the Department of Agriculture has been continued, and some of the trials of these varieties which have been made by growers have been successful. An extension of these trials is likely to take place as a number of high-yielding types are now available for distribution. The competitions and demonstrations organized by the Department of Agriculture are becoming more and more popular and the areas of well cultivated paddy lands are gradually increasing.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Financial aid to paddy growers and to village cultivators is being continued through co-operative societies. Twenty-four new societies were registered during the year, and the total of societies now registered number 237. The paid-up share capital of societies at the end of the co-operative year on April 30, 1923, was Rs. 238,607, as against Rs. 188,689.50 in the previous year; and the reserve funds amount to Rs. 44,603.64, as against Rs. 32,142.88. The total number of members of societies is now 26,757. Training classes for secretaries and treasurers were held at Kandy, Matale, Kegalla, Colombo, Galle, Kalutara, Matara, Kurunegala, Trincomalee, Ratnapura, and Batticaloa during the year.

The co-operative movement is making progress amongst paddy growers in the Batticaloa District, and it has been decided to endeavour to extend the co-operative movement generally. For this purpose a Civil Servant will be seconded solely for co-operative work and he will work in close co-operation with the Director of Agriculture.

GENERAL.

The legislative enactments dealing with the control of plant pests and diseases were revised and consolidated during the year, and fresh regulations issued after consultation with the Board of Agriculture and sanction of the Legislature for the

appointment of a Plant Pest and Disease Inspector for the North-Western Division was secured. A Divisional Agricultural Officer for the North-Western Division was appointed during the year and the organization of agricultural work in that division begun. A new Chemical Laboratory has been built and it is proposed to appoint a whole-time Agricultural Chemist to the staff of the Department of Agriculture.

A beginning has been made of an agricultural survey of the lands through which the Railway extension to Batticaloa passes, so as to enable Government to decide upon a policy of development of these lands which are now made accessible for closer settlement.

INFECTIVE DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

Rinderpest.—The epizootic of rinderpest which began in October, 1923, assumed serious proportions during the early part of the year. The centre of the outbreak was Colombo, and from there it spread to the Western, North-Western, Southern, and Sabaragamuwa Provinces. In spite of all efforts to check its progress the disease spread southwards as far as Matara, northwards to Chilaw, and eastward to Ratnapura.

Inoculation of Contacts.—Where it has been employed serum inoculation has been of the greatest service in preventing spread of the disease among contacts. The measure has not, however, been generally employed on account of the refusal of many owners to pay the cost of the serum. Many owners refuse to allow their cattle to be inoculated, preferring to trust to charming ceremonies and to the treatment of the local vederala. On the other hand, a number of cases have been met with where owners appreciate the value of inoculation, but on account of the cost, which where a number of animals are involved is not inconsiderable, have been obliged to forego inoculation.

As a consequence of the serious nature of the epidemic, a Committee, of which the Government Veterinary Surgeon was a member, was appointed by Government to inquire into the causes of the repeated outbreaks of rinderpest, and a report has been submitted to Government.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.—This disease occurred from time to time throughout the Island. In native and Indian cattle the disease is of a mild type and mortality is practically nil. Owing to the mild type of the disease which leads to the cattle owners regarding it lightly and failing to report outbreaks and also to its extremely infectious nature the task of eradication

of the disease is difficult. While the loss from deaths due to foot-and-mouth disease is low, yet the indirect losses from loss of work and interference with trade caused by restrictions on the movement of cattle in an affected area are considerable.

Very heavy losses are caused in dairies of good milking English and Australian cattle. In such cattle there is great loss of condition, complete cessation of milk supply during the acute stages, and greatly diminished yield subsequently.

The efforts of the department have been directed towards limiting spread of the disease and preventing outbreaks becoming generalized. In this direction considerable success has been attained.

Ostitis Fibrosa (commonly known as Osteoporosis).—This disease continues to be the most serious source of loss to horse owners. Until the cause of this baffling disease has been definitely determined little progress can be made in combating it.

Piroplasmosis or Red-Water.—This disease does not cause serious loss as the majority of animals become affected while young and recover and so gain a permanent immunity. Losses never occur among cattle reared at the Government Dairy; but six cases occurred among cattle bought up-country and brought to the dairy. These animals had been housed all their lives and had apparently escaped infection when young. They became seriously affected when turned out to graze at the dairy, and three died in spite of treatment. The organism in these cases was *piroplasma bigemium*. Trypon blue was found of value in cutting short an attack if given in the early stages.

Cases of piroplasmosis are common among imported dogs in Ceylon. It is probable that the majority of pariah dogs act as carriers. Trypon blue is very successful in treatment.

No cases of piroplasmosis in the horse have been recorded in Ceylon.

Surra.—No cases occurred during the year.

Tuberculosis.—No cases occurred during the year among cattle. A dead turkey sent for post-mortem examination was extensively diseased; the liver, spleen, and intestines being involved.

Coccidiosis.—Three cases were diagnosed in young calves, of which two died and one recovered. This is the first time this disease has been diagnosed in Ceylon.

Anthrax.—Forty-two cases occurred in cattle, and one in a dog which had eaten a portion of an anthrax carcass.

227 cases were reported among the sheep and goats at the Quarantine Station, Colombo.

Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia.—Twenty-four cases occurred in cattle, 22 of which ended fatally. Ninety-eight cases were reported from the Northern Province in goats with 95 deaths.

Black Quarter or Quarter Ill.—Twenty-six cases occurred in the Province of Uva. All proved fatal.

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE total expenditure of the Public Works Department has increased from Rs. 3,437,862 in 1896 to Rs. 12,960,076 in 1924, the latter figure showing an increase of Rs. 1,579,828 over that of 1923. The average annual expenditure during the past twenty-nine years has been Rs. 7,470,324.

The total length of roads maintained by the Public Works Department during the year was 4,118 miles, of which 3,883 miles are cart roads, and 235 miles are bridle roads.

Amongst the more important works carried out or in course of construction may be mentioned the following:—

General.—Government bungalows and clerks' quarters, Colombo; new Royal College, Colombo; Public Works Department buildings, Veyangoda; carpentry and fitting shops, Technical Schools, Colombo; improvements to Physics Laboratory and playground, University College, Colombo; preliminary operations in connection with the new Council Chamber and Secretariat; improvements to Government Dairy, Narahenpita; special repairs to Queen's House, Colombo; improvements to Central Timber Depôt, Colombo; special repairs to the Jails at Welikada and Mahara; improvements to the Office of the Sanitary Commissioner, Colombo; Chemical Laboratory, Peradeniya; bungalows for staff officers of the Agricultural Department, Peradeniya; additions to the Agricultural School, Peradeniya; junior clerks' quarters, Nuwara Eliya; additions and improvements to Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya; clerks' quarters, Hambantota; Survey Office, Galle; new Customs buildings at Talaimannar; Experimental Station and Agricultural School, Jaffna; Training School, Kopay; clerk's quarters, Pallai; additions to Customs buildings, Point Pedro; quarters for the Police Magistrate, Dandagamuwa; clerks' quarters, Anuradhapura; quarters for

Forest Department Clerks and Foresters, Anuradhapura; Telegraph Inspector's quarters, Anuradhapura; rat proof store for Economic Botanist, Anuradhapura; Post Office at Koslanda; accommodation for the Pack Battery Artillery Unit, Diyatalawa; quarters for the District Engineer, Pelmadulla.

Medical Buildings.—New Lunatic Asylum, Angoda; new Convict Hospital, Borella; Infectious Diseases Hospital, Angoda; new Seamen's Ward, General Hospital; Tuberculosis Hospital, Ragama; additions and improvements to Civil Medical Stores, Colombo; special repairs to Negombo hospital; additions and improvements to Jail dispenser's quarters, Negombo, and Lady Manning's Hospital, Gampaha; extension to Skinner's Ward, General Hospital; additions and improvements to hospitals at Matale and Mulhalkele; Apothecary's quarters, Dikoya; hospitals at Gampola and Bogawantalawa; additions to the hospitals at Dimbula, Lindula, Pussellawa, Dolosbage, Galle, and Deniyaya; hospital at Chavakachcheri; additions to Leper Asylum, Mantivu; additions and improvements to hospitals at Kurunegala and Anuradhapura, and Ratmalai dispensary; District Medical Officer's quarters, Alutnuwara; improvements to Moneragala hospital; dispensary and ward at Embilipitiya; quarters for Apothecary and District Medical Assistant, Kahawatta hospital; quarters for Steward, Kitulgala hospital; improvements, Karawanella hospital.

Police Buildings.—Police Training School, Bambalapitiya; police barracks, Pettah; police station, Kalawellawa; married quarters for constables at Mahara; special repairs to police barracks, Slave Island; quarters for the Superintendent of Police, Badulla.

Bridges.—Rebuilding Kosgama bridge, Colombo-Avissawella road; strengthening Bolgoda bridge; rebuilding bridge No. 34, Colombo-Galle road; Talatu-oya bridge; Gampola bridge; rebuilding bridges on the 69th and 85th miles, Bentota-Goiyapana road; Elephant Pass bridge; improvements to bridge on 21st mile, Mannar-Madawachchiya road; rebuilding bridge on 3rd mile, central road to Mullaittivu; bridges, Chilaw-Hettipola road; strengthening and renewing iron bridges, Puttalam-Battulu-oya road; bridges on Bevilla-Digowa estate cart road and Kukul korale road.

Progress was also made with the Colombo Lake Development project; Hydro-Electric Scheme; improvements to Nawalapitiya town; coast protection works on the Bentota-Goiyapana-Tangalla road; Karaiur reclamation, Jaffna; flood discharge channels, Jaffna peninsula; preliminary operations in connection with the proposed Pearl Fishery, Marichchikaddai; latrine

accommodation for Public Works Department cooly lines; electric lighting scheme, Angoda; Puttalam and Matale lighting schemes; Galle electric lighting; investigations for the Kurunegala, Weligama, Nawalapitiya, and Ambalangoda lighting schemes.

IRRIGATION.

Irrigation works in Ceylon are classified as—

- (a) Major works.
- (b) Village works.

Major works are all maintained and supervised by the staff of the Director of Irrigation from Government funds, and are liable to irrigation rates of some kind or another.

The financing of the construction of these works has been done originally by Government, but in the case of some works (which are termed "Aided Works") the arrangement was that the actual cost of construction should be repaid to Government by instalments over a series of years, and the maintenance rate for these works is assessed quinquennially. In the case of the other major works termed "Perpetuity Rate Works," the construction cost was unreservedly met by Government, and an irrigation rate in perpetuity imposed on the lands, which rate when imposed was intended to cover the cost of maintenance of the works and also repay something in the shape of interest on the construction costs.

Village works are in the charge of the Government Agents, who have a number of field staff officers of the Irrigation Department lent to them to assist them with the technical supervision; the maintenance as regards earthwork and clearing jungle and silt, &c., is done on a sharing system by the landholders under each work and regulated by special village works rules. The maintenance of the masonry works of village works is done from a Government vote to the Director of Irrigation, which is distributed to the different Provinces, and the work carried out by the village tank staff (advised by the Divisional Irrigation Engineers), unless the work is of considerable magnitude, when it would be done by the Director's staff.

The bunds of village works have in most cases been constructed by villagers themselves supervised by Government Agents' staff under different forms of permit, in many cases the people being allowed land under the works in proportion to the earthwork done; sluices (whether masonry or pipes) are provided from Government votes, and also masonry spills where they exist.

1907-1908

1909-1910

1911-1912

1913-1914

Landowners under village works pay no irrigation rates. Occasionally arrangements are made by agreement between Government and the proprietors by which a village work becomes a major work or *vice versa*, but instances of this are not frequent.

Under the Irrigation Ordinance of 1917, the control of paddy cultivation under all classes of works is in the hands of Government Agents.

The total expenditure of the Department for the financial year 1923-24 was Rs. 1,529,001.91, as compared with Rs. 1,205,914.26 for the previous year.

The usual work of maintenance was carried out during the year, and amongst the more important works constructed or in course of construction, the following may be mentioned :—

Walawe Left Bank Scheme.—Construction of the main bund was proceeded with, difficulty being experienced in excavating the puddle trench through a stratum of fine sand requiring close timbering. Work was continued on the cutting of the inlet channel from river to tank, supply channels, and spill, in addition to survey work for channels and agricultural roads.

Tabbowa Scheme.—The main wall of the spill and the right and left bank sluices were completed and the masonry protection of the spill slopes, cutting of supply channels, and raising of the main Puttalam-Anuradhapura road where it crosses the tank bed were taken in hand.

Karachchi Scheme.—Work was continued on the auxiliary works on the channel system and on the construction of the necessary roads of access to the irrigable tract.

Colombo South Flood Protection Scheme.—The Demata-goda lock and bund were completed and the bund across the Kolonnawa gap was advanced so far as to prevent any further floods passing to the low-lying lands.

Colombo North Flood Protection Scheme.—Investigations were completed and the Scheme approved. The estimated cost of the Scheme is Rs. 450,000, and when completed it will protect from floods some 1,460 acres of low-lying lands.

This area consists of all the low-lying land to the west and south of the new Kolonnawa railway line between Wellampitiya hill and Madampitiya ridge, beyond which point the

flooded land on both sides of the new railway line will be protected. The Scheme is bounded on the south by the Maradana-Dematagoda road, and the canal system is connected with that of the Colombo South Scheme by the lock at Dematagoda.

The new railway embankment will be used as a flood bank between Wellampitiya hill and Madampitiya ridge, beyond which points the Kelani floods are excluded by natural high ridges. The southern boundary of the area is all natural high ridge, excepting the Dematagoda gap, which has been closed in the Colombo South Scheme.

The total area of 1,460 acres which will be protected by this Scheme is divided as follows :—

- (i.) Land more than 3 feet above mean sea level, which will immediately become available for first class building land—620 acres.
- (ii.) Land which at present is less than 3 feet above mean sea level and is being used as grass or paddy land—840 acres.

Part of this area will require a certain amount of improvement before being used for building purposes. A considerable portion of it, however, will be available for building purposes as soon as it is drained.

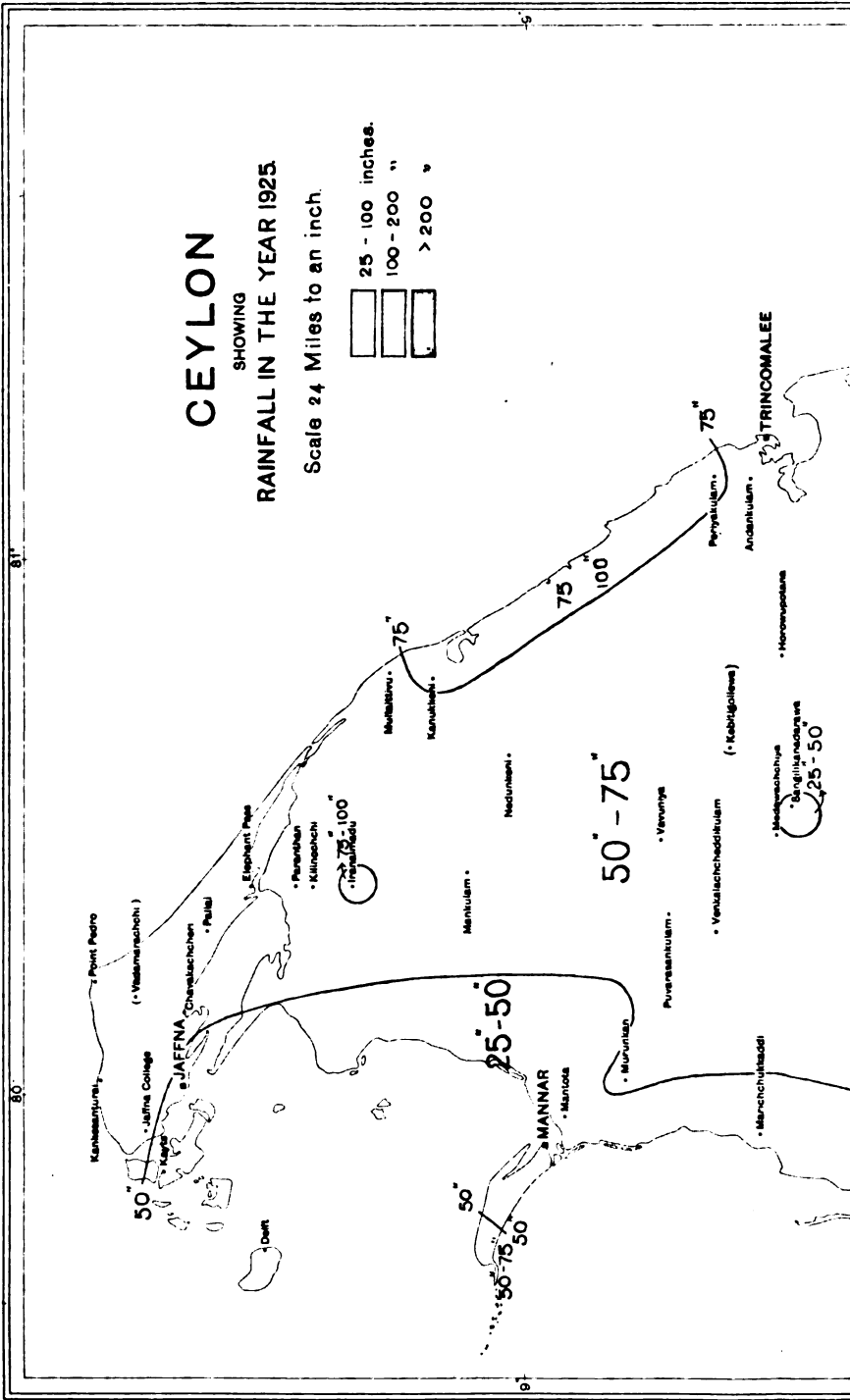
The only works of importance which are needed for the exclusion of floods are those required to convert the railway embankment into a flood bank and the provision of a canal lock on the main canal.

The works required for the efficient rain water drainage are briefly :—

- (i.) The construction of a tunnel to the sea outfall.
- (ii.) The construction of a main drain from the canal at the junction of Victoria Bridge street and Prince of Wales' avenue to the tunnel intake.
- (iii.) The construction of culverts under Victoria Bridge road, Bloemendahl road, and Alutmawata road, and the lowering of the culvert under the Kolonnawa railway line where the main drain crosses it.

The more important benefits that will accrue are as follows :—

- (i.) The elimination of a large, unsightly and unhealthy swamp area on the outskirts of the most densely populated part of the city.



- (ii.) The provision of a large area for immediate expansion in a position where it is most urgently required for providing accommodation for the working population.
- (iii.) The prevention of flood damage in this area.
- (iv.) The North Scheme in conjunction with the South Scheme will ultimately enable a far-seeing town planning policy to be adopted.

Unnichchai Scheme.—Construction of agricultural roads and improvements to channels.

Chadayantalawa Scheme.—Provision of buttresses to right bank spill and construction of anicut.

Puluganavi Tank.—Construction of anicut.

Pattipolai-arū Scheme.—Completion of Velattapitty channel and construction of Malwatte-Malliativu agricultural road.

Kirinde-oya Right Bank Scheme.—Construction of agricultural road and further irrigation facilities.

Nachchaduwa Scheme.—Distribution channels and agricultural roads.

Kalawewa Scheme.—Construction of additional channels.

Sudupanawila-ela.—Construction of agricultural road.

Village Works.—A sum of Rs. 53,890.34 was expended upon maintenance and improvements, construction work being carried out on 50 tanks.

Surveys and Investigations.—The principal surveys, investigations, or demarcations carried out were in connection with the following schemes:—Colombo north flood protection, Bowetenne, Walawe left bank and right bank, Kirinde-oya right bank, Vadamarachchi lagoon, Karachchi, Unichchai, Allai extension, Pattipolai-arū, Tabbowa, and Nachchaduwa. In addition, investigations regarding village tanks in the catchment areas draining across the Northern and Mannar Railways were continued.

The number of Crown Irrigation Works is 184, under which 145,133 acres are at present irrigated.

Many improvements have been carried out to village works, and at present there are approximately 2,695 village tanks and elas in operation, a further number of 1,625 village tanks being under restoration.

Approximately 196,851 acres are cultivated for paddy under village works.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

Open Lines, 1924.

The total length of the open line on September 30, 1924, was 742 miles—an increase in open line mileage of 8 miles.

The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 27,188,145, as against Rs. 24,597,590, an increase of Rs. 2,590,555.

The number of passengers conveyed has increased by 212,526, the total for the year being 11,321,777.

Under season ticket traffic, the number of season ticket holders increased to the extent of 13,242, the total number issued during the year being 170,211.

The number of parcels conveyed during the year was 1,465,369, an increase of 59,289.

The tonnage of goods carried has risen from tons 1,157,866 to tons 1,303,777, the most noticeable increases and decreases being :—

Increases.		Tons.	Decreases.		Tons.
Sundry goods ...	...	35,738	Rubber ...	...	4,441
Coconut produce ...	...	21,035	Plumbago ...	...	682
Manure ...	...	20,118			
Rice ...	...	15,529			
Tea ...	...	12,732			
Copra ...	...	7,325			
Tea and rubber packing ...	...	6,588			
Paddy ...	...	2,586			
Foreign goods ...	...	8,460			
Liquid fuel ...	...	2,034			
Petroleum ...	...	1,472			

The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 17,614,067, an increase of Rs. 1,505,819 made up of Rs. 282,009 personal emoluments, Rs. 1,128,792 other charges, Rs. 47,018 new works (maintenance), and Rs. 48,000 pensions and gratuities.

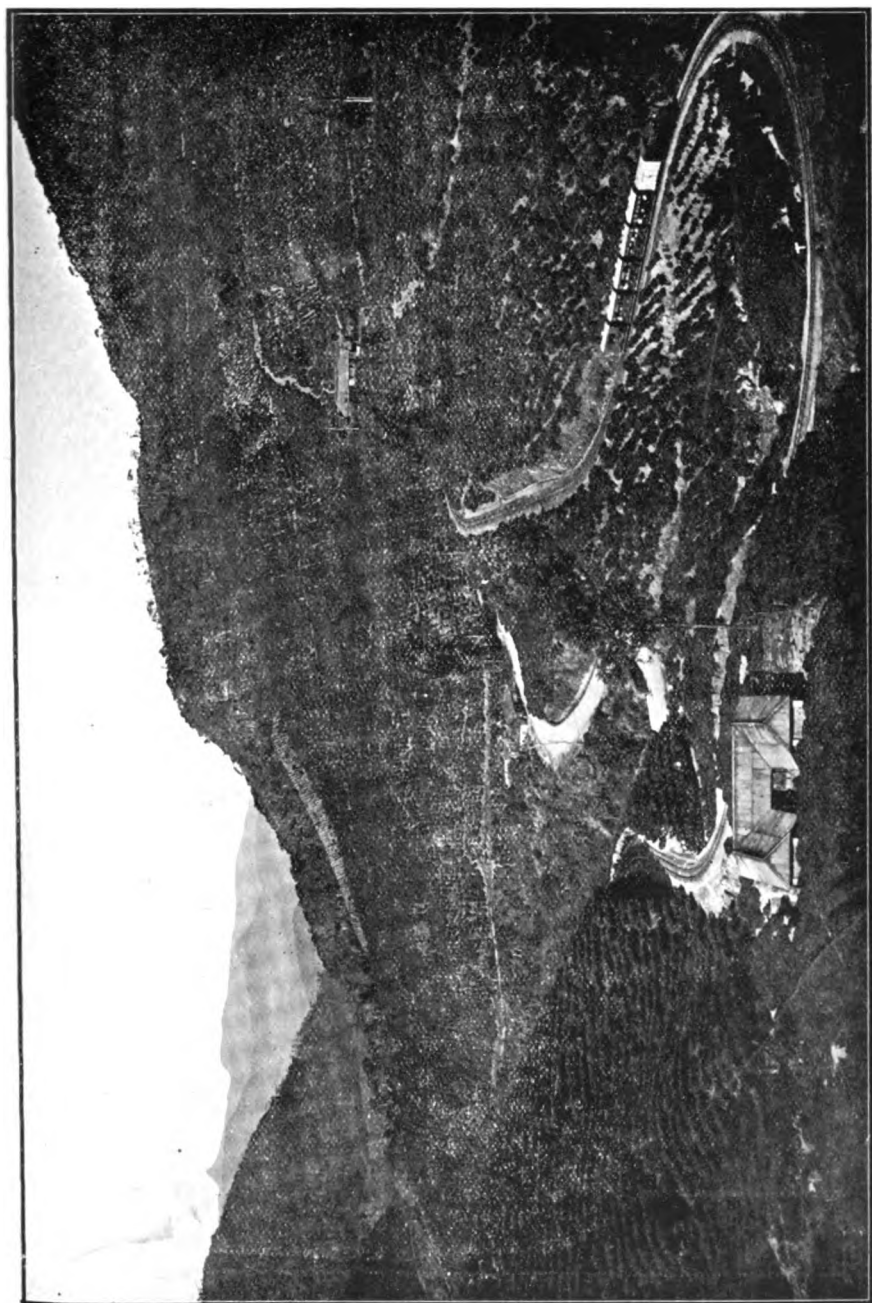
The total capital cost of the Railway amounted to Rs. 160,369,876, the capital account having been increased during the year by Rs. 4,100,512 by the inclusion of the following additional capital charges, viz. :—

			Rs.
Badulla Railway	...	...	202,799
Harbour Rail Connection	...	...	1,617,922
Main Line Duplication	...	...	965,518
Stations Extension	...	...	90,831
Rolling Stock	...	...	61,892
New and Minor Works	...	...	1,105,055
Chief Construction Engineer's and Assistant's Salaries	...	...	56,495

Note.—The increases or decreases are based on the corresponding figures for the previous year (1923).

Colombo Station Extensions.

This work which involves a complete remodelling and extension of railway premises in Colombo is now approaching



Pláté, Limited, Colombo.

THE
JOURNAL
OF
THE
ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
VOLUME 10
PART 1
1880

completion. The estimate for the whole undertaking is Rs. 9,779,623, of which Rs. 9,664,923.52 had been spent by the end of December, 1924.

The total estimate includes seems for additional work not provided for in the original estimate.

The steelwork for the footbridge at the west end of the Fort station had not arrived by the end of the year.

The remodelling of the Colombo goods yard was practically completed within the year. The Waragoda sorting sidings were completed and handed over to the open lines.

Colombo Harbour Rail Extension.

This work has been completed, with the exception of the approach roads to the two overhead bridges carrying Bloemendahl road and Victoria bridge road over railway.

The total estimate is Rs. 3,822,767.34, of which Rs. 3,799,671.20 had been spent by December 31, 1924.

Main Line Duplication.

The double line between Ragama and Pallewela and Alawwa and Polgahawela is now open. The section between Pallewela and Mirigama will shortly be opened and the remaining sections will be opened this year. The total estimate is Rs. 7,368,875.53, of which Rs. 6,545,088.22 had been spent by December 31, 1924.

Puttalam Extension.

The line between Chilaw and Mundel was opened by His Excellency the Governor on January 19, 1925. Work between Mundel and Puttalam was well advanced by the end of the year and this remaining portion of the line should be opened before the end of 1925.

The total estimate is Rs. 7,334,480, of which Rs. 5,802,837.12 had been spent by December 31, 1924.

Batticaloa-Trincomalee Light Railway.

Rails had by the end of the year been laid into Trincomalee, and as far as the Mahaweli-ganga on the Batticaloa branch. Rails have also been laid from the Valaichenai estuary westwards for a distance of five miles.

The line between Maho and Kekirawa, a distance of 32 miles, was opened for traffic on January 5, 1925, and it is expected that by the end of the year it will be opened between Kekirawa and Trincomalee and Gal-oya and Polonnaruwa.

Batticaloa-Nindur Railway Survey.

The survey has been completed and an estimate of the cost of the extension made.

Kalladi Bridge.

The steelwork and cylinders have arrived and a start has been made on the cylinder sinking.

VII.—EXCISE.**DISTILLERY SYSTEM.**

THE year 1924 saw the completion of one chapter and the beginning of another in the history of Excise policy. By Notification No. 101 of November 20, 1919, the owners of the old pot stills had been warned that their licences would not be renewed in January, 1924, and it was decided to replace them by a few large distilleries to be worked on the same lines as the Government distillery at Kalutara North. Contracts to supply arrack to Government were entered into in 1923, and six new distilleries for the production of this arrack were built by private owners. The contract rate was Rs. 2.25 a gallon, and the period of the contract five years. By May, 1924, nearly all the six distilleries, one of them a French patent still of the Barbet type, were ready to work. The Government distillery was closed down during 1924, in order to give the holders of arrack made at the old distilleries a chance to dispose of their surplus stocks, but by July the Government was assured of a sufficient supply to meet the demands of the coming year.

CONTRACT SUPPLY SYSTEM.

This system has been described in previous reports. Introduced first in 1920 into the Northern Province, it has gradually been extended to Uva in 1921-22, to the Central Province in 1922-23, to the Western and Sabaragamuwa Provinces in 1923-24, and finally from October, 1924, it was brought into operation over the whole Island. The essence of the new policy is that henceforth the absolute control of all arrack manufactured in the country is in the hands of Government.

To ensure this control a new supervising staff was appointed, consisting of the following :—

An Inspecting Officer of Distilleries (I.O.D.), of the rank of Assistant Superintendent.

A Checking Officer (to assist the I.O.D.), of the rank of Inspector.

Fourteen Distillery Inspectors, and 14 peons.

At every distillery one Inspector and peon are always on duty, and no arrack can be removed without the permit of the Inspector in charge.

CONSUMPTION AND REVENUE FIGURES.

I. Figures as regards consumption of arrack, toddy, and importation of foreign liquor for the calendar years 1920 to 1924 are given below—

	1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.
Arrack	... 1,019,370	...	848,376	...	807,387	...	726,172	...	754,587
Toddy	... 4,752,605	...	4,443,800	...	4,291,012	...	4,143,801	...	4,460,519
Foreign liquor	... 303,528	...	203,708	...	268,629	...	223,750	...	371,169

II. The number of taverns for the same years was—

	1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.
Arrack	... 521	...	452	...	379	...	321	...	298
Toddy	... 590	...	474	...	395	...	330	...	310
Foreign liquor	... 74	...	71	...	61	...	57	...	55

III. The revenue derived for the financial years 1920-21 to 1923-24 was as follows :—

	1920-21.		1921-22.		1922-23.		1923-24.
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Arrack	... 8,313,022	...	7,439,553	...	7,300,064	...	7,626,504
Toddy	... 1,952,330	...	1,801,879	...	1,853,546	...	1,950,374
Foreign liquor	... 1,670,409	...	1,398,601	...	2,286,083	...	2,911,331

TEMPERANCE.

The number of taverns closed during 1924 was considerably less than during 1922 and 1923. Seventeen toddy taverns were closed as against 65 in 1923 and 79 in 1922; 23 arrack taverns were closed as against 58 in 1923 and 73 in 1922. The reduction is accounted for partly by the large number of closures in previous years, partly by the fact that in the Colombo Municipality there was temporarily no recognized electorate during the year as a result of the abolition of the poll tax in Colombo, and probably partly to the fact that interest throughout the country was largely centred on the elections to the Reformed Legislative Council. It is of interest to note that the number of arrack taverns is now 1.26 for every 100 square miles, and that only 8 drams of arrack per annum are consumed per head of population.

EXCISE OFFENCES AND DRY AREAS.

With the closure of taverns the number of Excise offences has risen. These offences are statutory offences. The number has risen from 3,244 in 1921 to 3,946 in 1924. Serious crime in dry areas has increased from 1,525 offences in 1921 to 2,968 in 1922 and 3,124 in 1923.

VIII.—POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

ON December 31, 1924, 626 offices were open for the transaction of postal business: of these 181 (excluding the Central Telegraph Office) were offices dealing with all class of postal business, viz., mail and parcel work, registration and insurance of postal articles, money order, postal order and savings bank work, and telegraph business; at 25 offices all such business except telegraph work was transacted.

At 28 sub-offices mail, parcel, registration, and postal order work only was transacted, while at 355 village receiving offices mail work only was conducted; there were also 37 railway receiving offices.

MAIL SERVICES.

A.—*Foreign.*

A regular weekly mail service between Ceylon and the United Kingdom was maintained during 1924, and 10,345 bags of correspondence and 6,277 bags of parcels arrived from London: while 3,351 bags of correspondence and 2,331 bags of parcels were despatched to London.

Fifty-two letter mails were received from London; of these 40 were carried by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, of which 24 were landed at Bombay and brought overland to Colombo and 16 were brought by sea to Colombo, and 12 were carried by vessels of the Orient line.

In the homeward direction 112 mails were despatched to Europe by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental (51 mails), Orient (12), Messageries Maritimes (19), Nippon Yusen Kaisha (1), Rotterdam Lloyd (22), and Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland (7) lines. The time occupied in transit was 16 to 19 days from Colombo to London and 16 to 18 days from London to Colombo—average $17\frac{1}{2}$ and 17 days respectively. The running of the ordinary trains in place of the special Madras-Bombay mail trains stopped on May 1, 1922, continued during 1924, and Tuesday continued to be the regular day of closing the European mail. This change entailed considerable inconvenience on the mercantile community on occasions when the outward mail did not arrive until Tuesday morning. A step taken to minimize the inconvenience was the extension of the hours up to which letters were received for despatch on payment of late fees: 6 cents up to 5 P.M., 10 cents up to 6 P.M., and 15 cents up to the time the train left Fort station at 7.35 P.M. But with the starting time put back to 7 P.M., the late fee paid letters were received for despatch with 6 cents up to 5 P.M. for all places, 10 cents up to 6 P.M., and 15 cents up to 6.30 P.M. for United Kingdom only.

Between Australia and Ceylon a regular monthly mail service was maintained, both by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the Orient Company; and the vessels of the Australian Commonwealth line provided a supplementary service, 15 mails being despatched for Australia by this means during the year.

Regular and frequent services to the Straits Settlements and the Far East were available by the vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Messageries Maritimes Company, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Rotterdam Lloyd, Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland, and Compania Transatlantica lines.

The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers carried mails from Ceylon to Mauritius seven times during the year at irregular intervals. A fortnightly mail service from Colombo to Mauritius *viâ* Bombay, Aden, and Djibouti was started in February, and by this means 17 mails were despatched to Mauritius. The Natal direct, Indian African, Ossen Shosen Kaisha lines and British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers from Bombay carried 37 mails from Ceylon to South Africa.

Vessels of the Ossen Shosen Kaisha line carried direct mails to the Argentine *viâ* South Africa.

With India the daily service in each direction by train with ferryboat plying between Talaimannar and Dhanushkodi was maintained. A regular bi-weekly service was also maintained during 1924 between Colombo and Tuticorin by steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company.

B.—Inland Mails.

Inland mails are carried generally by the Ceylon Government Railway, and from railway stations by private contract motor mail services, bullock coach, or by runner services.

The principal motor mail services are :—

	Miles.
Badulla to Batticaloa	102½
Anuradhapura to Trincomalee	65½
Matara to Hambantota	51
Haputale to Moneragala	48
Matara to Deniyaya	43
Mundel to Puttalam	16
Mankulam to Mullaittivu	29½
Jaffna to Point Pedro	20½
Jaffna to Kayts (<i>viâ</i> Karainagar)	21½
Kodikamam to Valvettiturai	16
Kurunegala to Madampe	39½
Hatton to Bogawantalawa	14½
Norwood to Maskeliya	6½
Matale to Dambulla	27½
Talawakele to Agrapadna	14
Opanake to Balangoda	9
Gampola to Ramboda	20

			Miles.
Panadure to Ratnapura	...	...	42½
Kahawatta to Rakwana	...	...	12
Polgahawela to Kegalla	...	...	8½
Puttalam to Kalpitiya	...	...	28
Halgranova to Uda Pussellawa	...	...	6
Nuwara Eliya to Welimada	...	...	16
Hambantota to Tissamaharama	...	...	21
Nawalapitiya to Kotmale	...	...	8
Batticaloa to Akkaraipattu	...	...	38

The inland mail services worked satisfactorily throughout the year save when interrupted for short periods by floods and washaways.

MAIL STATISTICS.

The total number of postal articles exclusive of parcels which passed through the post in 1924 is estimated at 68 million, about 7½ million more than in 1923. The increase was principally in inland correspondence, which comprised over 82 per cent. of the total. Correspondence exchanged with India formed nearly 10 per cent. of the total, with the United Kingdom about 4 per cent., and with other countries nearly 4 per cent.

Letters received from the United Kingdom showed an increase of 102,500 compared with 1923. Printed matter, samples, &c., from the United Kingdom showed a decrease of about 100,000 compared with 1923.

The total number of parcels dealt with was 1,019,429, an increase of over 98,000 over the 1923 total. Of these, 57,984 were received from the United Kingdom, 212,646 from India, and 10,458 from other countries. 16,752 parcels were received under the Cash on Delivery service from the United Kingdom, an increase of 7,724 over the last year's total.

POSTAGE RATES.

The rates for foreign postage fixed under the Madrid Convention continued in operation; the rate on letters to British Possessions being 12 cents for the first oz. and 10 cents for each subsequent oz., while the postage on post cards was 10 cents; to foreign countries the corresponding rates were 20 cents, 10 cents, and 12 cents. On printed matter the initial rate of 4 cents per 2 oz. was uniform, with minima of 8 cents on samples and 20 cents on business papers.

The inland rates of postage and the rates to India remained unchanged—initial letter rate 6 cents per 4 oz., post card rate 3 cents, and printed matter 3 cents for 2 oz.

The total value of stamps sold by the Department in 1924 was Rs. 6,849,206.

The inland telegraph rate, 40 cents for the first 10 words, including address, and 5 cents for each additional 2 words,

remained unchanged, as did the rates on telegrams to India, for first 12 words, ordinary Re. 1, express Rs. 2, with 10 and 15 cents respectively, for each additional word.

MONEY AND POSTAL ORDERS.

The total value of money orders handled in 1924 was Rs. 43,823,874, of which inland orders amounted to Rs. 29,887,301; of the balance, the business with India formed the largest percentage, orders issued payable in India totalling over $10\frac{1}{2}$ million rupees—one million more than in 1923—a fair proportion of which was due to savings remitted by Indian immigrant coolies.

The business in money orders between Ceylon and the United Kingdom was small—9,261 orders of a total value of Rs. 370,139.

There was an increase in the value of local postal orders issued, Rs. 822,264, compared with Rs. 771,584 in 1923, and a small increase in the number of British postal orders paid, which, however, only amounted to £10,618.

Considerable use was made of the telegraph money order service between Ceylon and India, remittances totalling Rs. 4,111,407 being so sent to India and Rs. 549,167 drawn by Indian remitters on Ceylon. Comparatively little use, however, was made of the services between Ceylon and the United Kingdom (377 telegraph orders were sent to the United Kingdom and 82 received therefrom) and Ceylon and the Federated Malay States (26 orders only being sent and 974 orders received), owing probably to the higher telegraph costs.

The revenue from money order commission reached Rs. 475,823.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The business of the bank transacted at 206 offices continued to expand during 1924, the deposits which amounted to Rs. 5,413,199 exceeding withdrawals during the year by Rs. 754,392.

On December 31, 1924, the total to the credit of depositors was Rs. 6,701,840.

The rate of interest continued to be 2.10 per cent.—2 cents per month for each complete Rs. 10.

Any sums not less than 25 cents are accepted for deposits up to nett maxima of Rs. 750 per annum and an interest bearing total of Rs. 3,000.

Deposits may be made by means of stamped slips. One withdrawal on demand of a sum not exceeding Rs. 10 is allowed in any one week.

TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

All the important towns in the Island are served by the Government telegraph system.

180 postal telegraph offices were open for public traffic on December 31, 1924, besides several Railway telegraph offices. Two new telegraph offices were opened during the year.

There are two telegraph circuits between Ceylon and India, on one of which the Baudot printing machine is employed in duplex working.

Ceylon is connected with the West by direct cables of the Eastern Telegraph Company to Aden and the Seychelles, and to the East with Singapore.

The Government Wireless Station at Colombo of kilowatt power has a normal daylight range of about 400 miles, and is open to traffic of all kinds.

The total number of telegrams handled in 1924 was 1,727,322, some 27,500 more than in 1923. The average time taken in transmission of an inland telegram was 16 minutes.

The total number of messages despatched to India 225,290, showed an increase of some 35,000, and the number received from India, 149,663, was some 6,500 less than in 1923.

113,724 private cable messages were despatched to and 99,581 received from other countries.

The Colombo Wireless Station dealt with 9,918 messages containing 117,385 words during the year.

The revenue from telegrams was, roughly, Rs. 835,500, and the value of free telegraphic services rendered to other departments was estimated at Rs. 57,500.

THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Speaking generally, the larger towns are served by Government exchanges (50 in number), and rural areas by private licensed local exchanges, linked together by Government junction and trunk lines.

The principal Government exchange is at Colombo, which is served by underground cables as far as possible. There were 2,460 subscribers to this on December 31, 1924, and three applications for services were outstanding.

The next largest Government exchanges are at Kandy (166 subscribers), Nuwara Eliya (125), Galle (86), Kurunegala (58), Negombo (48), Kalutara (47), Panadure (44), and Matale (34).

No charge for installation is made for connection to Government exchanges, and a flat rate of subscription is charged for an unlimited service within the prescribed hours.

The minimum subscriptions, applicable to premises within 2 miles of the Exchange, are Rs. 180 per annum for business and Rs. 120 for residential connections in the larger towns.

At the Colombo exchange the service is continuous throughout the year, and it is estimated that a little over $14\frac{1}{2}$ million calls were dealt with in Ceylon in 1924—nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million more than in 1923.

The average speed of answer during the day in Colombo was 4.7 seconds, and 96.3 per cent. of calls were answered within 10 seconds.

There were 98 Government call offices in use during the year, and the number of telephone stations reached 6,448. The estimated number of trunk line calls was 277,992 and junction line calls 196,560, an increase on the 1923 figures. The trunk and junction line fees are fixed on a cent per mile basis. Receipts from telephones totalled Rs. 619,228 in 1924, while the value of telephone services rendered free to other Government Departments was estimated at Rs. 102,500.

The principal trunk telephone lines are :—

	Miles.
(1) Colombo-Kandy-Gampola-Hatton-Nuwara Eliya	132
(2) Gampola-Pussellawa-Nuwara Eliya	34
(3) Colombo-Kalutara-Galle-Matara	99
(4) Colombo-Avissawella-Ratnapura	64
(5) Colombo-Polgahawela-Kurunegala	59
(6) Colombo-Ragama-Negombo	23
(7) Kandy-Wattegama-Matale	21
(8) Nuwara Eliya-Haputale-Diyatalawa-Bandarawela	36
(9) Colombo-Negombo-Chilaw	51

The Government telephone system at the end of 1924 comprised 10,455 miles of overhead and 20,027 miles of underground wire.

There are 28 licensed exchanges, and the largest private systems are :—

- (a) The Norwood-Maskeliya-Bogawantalawa system, with exchanges at those places having 39, 48, and 31 subscribers, respectively;
- (b) The Talawakele-Tillicoultry and Agrapatna system, with exchanges at those places having 35, 29, and 27 subscribers, respectively; and
- (c) The Galaha-Hewaheta system, with 60 and 5 subscribers, respectively.

The Neboda private system serves 35 subscribers.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the Department in 1924 is estimated at, roughly, Rs. 5,786,188. The principal increases were under the heads of Postage (some Rs. 340,500), Telephone receipts (some Rs. 56,500), and other collections Rs. 86,000.

The value of free services rendered to other Government Departments, not included in these totals, was estimated at Rs. 930,500, but no reliable estimate can be framed of the value of free services rendered by them to the Postal Department.

The total expenditure from the votes of the Postal Department was Rs. 4,802,615. A further sum of Rs. 491,529 was charged to the Loan Account for works of telephone development.

IX.—EDUCATION.

GENERAL.

SCHOOLS in Ceylon may be broadly divided into three classes: English, Anglo-vernacular, and vernacular. The vernacular schools are attended by about 85 per cent. of the school-going population. The English and Anglo-vernacular schools provide elementary education leading up to the English School-leaving Certificate Examination. Secondary English schools provide an education leading up to the Cambridge Senior School Certificate Examination and the London University Matriculation Examination. There are also classes for commercial subjects in some of the larger schools. There is an increasing demand for English, and an attempt has been made to meet this demand by a scheme of Government Central English and Anglo-vernacular schools for rural districts, where children may receive an English education. Such schools have been opened at Gampaha, Piliyandala, Veyangoda, Kadawata, Udugampola, Bomiriya, Beruwala, and Wadduwa in the Western Province; at Induruwa, Hikkaduwa, Ahungalla, Godauda, and Mirissa in the Southern Province; and at Puttalam in the North-Western Province. The inclusion of Sinhalese and Tamil in the London Matriculation and Intermediate Arts Examinations and the Cambridge Examinations has given a stimulus to the study of the vernacular languages. Several secondary schools are now teaching Sinhalese and Tamil. English has suffered in the past from Latin being taught in the schools to boys from Sinhalese- and Tamil-speaking homes, who have not acquired a sound knowledge of English, and have little facility in expressing themselves in any but their own language.

VERNACULAR EDUCATION.

In 1924 there were 1,080 Government vernacular schools, with an attendance of 110,818 boys and 48,932 girls. There were also 1,811 assisted schools, with an attendance of 128,087 boys and 82,678 girls. Of these, 275 were estate schools, with an attendance of 9,915 boys and 1,700 girls. A school for the

deaf and blind started in 1912 receives grant at the rate of Rs. 5 per mensem per child on the average number of children on the roll during the year.

The total sum expended by Government on the vernacular education in 1923-24 was Rs. 3,244,742, of which Rs. 1,473,719 was spent on Government schools and Rs. 1,771,023 on aided schools.

The Education Ordinance was proclaimed with effect from January 1, 1924, and Education District Committees have been formed in the following areas :—

1. Colombo Municipality.
2. Kandy Municipality.
3. Galle Municipality.
4. Kalutara Urban District.
5. Negombo Urban District.
6. Panadure Urban District.
7. Matale Urban District.
8. Jaffna Urban District.
9. Matara Urban District.
10. Chilaw Urban District.
11. Ratnapura Urban District.
12. Nuwara Eliya Revenue District, including Board of Improvement.
13. Mannar Revenue District.
14. Trincomalee Revenue District.

ENGLISH EDUCATION.

In 1924 there were 306 English and Anglo-vernacular schools attended by 61,393 pupils, of whom 47,541 were boys and 13,852 girls. There is one Government secondary school in Colombo, with an average attendance of 566. The cost to Government of this school for the year was Rs. 113,895, and fees recovered amounted to Rs. 39,669.

There were 40 assisted secondary schools, the total average attendance at which was 15,567.

In most of the larger schools candidates are prepared for the Senior and Junior Cambridge School Certificate Examinations and the London Matriculation Examination. In 1923 the number of candidates who presented themselves for the Cambridge School Certificate Examinations and the results obtained were—

		Candidates.		Honours.		Other Passes.
Senior	...	1,132	...	84	...	287
Junior	...	1,229	...	103	...	491

There are special syllabuses for Ceylon students in Science and Needlework. The results of the London University Examinations in 1924 showed that 459 candidates from Ceylon

presented themselves for the Matriculation Examination, 95 of whom passed. Six candidates passed the First Examination for Medical degrees and 11 the Second Examination, Part I. One hundred and nine candidates presented themselves for the Intermediate Examination in Arts, 38 of whom passed. Seventy-six candidates took up the Intermediate Examination in Science, 34 of whom passed. Seven candidates entered for the Inter. Science Economics, 1 of whom passed. Five entered for the Inter. Science Agriculture and none passed. Seven candidates presented themselves for the Intermediate Examination in Laws, 2 of whom passed. One candidate presented himself for the LL.B. Examination, but he failed to pass. Two candidates presented themselves for the Inter. Divinity Examination, and one passed. One entered for Inter. Commerce and he failed to pass. Twenty-seven candidates presented themselves for the B.A. degree, 11 of whom passed. Fourteen entered for the B.Sc., and 7 passed. One candidate presented himself for Honours in Classics and was awarded Second Class Honours. Two candidates presented themselves for Honours in English, of whom one was awarded Third Class Honours. One candidate presented himself for Honours in History Branch III. and was awarded Third Class Honours.

The encouragement offered by Government takes the form of grants or scholarships. The assisted English schools grants are paid on average attendance of pupils, as laid down in the schedules of the Code. Special grants are paid on account of buildings and equipment.

Five Government scholarships are now offered: one on the results of the Final Examination in Arts of the London University, and one on the results of the Final Examination in Science. A third scholarship is awarded on the results of the Final Examination in Science on condition that the holder studies Agriculture and Forestry. Two more scholarships are awarded on the results of the Final Examination in Science on condition that the selected candidate pursue a course of studies in Engineering. The first three scholarships are tenable for two years, and the two Engineering scholarships for three years. The scholarships are of the value of £300 per annum, with free passage and outfit allowance of £50. The holders may join any British University or any recognized engineering institution in the United Kingdom.

An exhibition of Rs. 250 or Rs. 300 a year has been offered by the Hon. Sir H. M. Fernando, Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, to the Ceylon student who obtains the highest marks in botany and either chemistry or agricultural science in the Cambridge Senior School Certificate Examination.

The following is the scale of fees charged in the various classes of Government English and Anglo-vernacular schools in the Island :—

Government English Schools.

				Per Mensem.
				Rs. c.
Preparatory	...	...	...	2 0
First Year Class	...	...	...	2 50
Second Year Class	...	...	...	3 0
Standard V.	...	...	...	3 50
Standard VI.	...	...	...	4 0
Standard VII.	...	...	...	4 50
English School-leaving Certificate Class	...	...	...	5 0

Anglo-Vernacular Schools.

Stage I.	...	...	...	0 50
Stage II.	...	...	...	0 75
Stage III.	...	...	...	1 0
Stage IV.	...	...	...	1 25
Stage V.	...	...	...	1 50
Stage VI.	...	...	...	2 0
Standard VII.	...	...	...	3 0
Standard VIII. (English School-leaving Certificate Class)	...	...	...	4 0

The 1923 Code for Assisted English Schools lays down the following minimum scale of fees for elementary schools :—

Grade I. Schools.

In Provinces other than the Northern, Eastern, and North-Central Provinces :—

				Per Mensem.
				Rs. c.
Lower Kindergarten	...	...	...	1 0
Upper Kindergarten	...	...	...	1 50
Standard II.	...	...	...	2 0
Standard III.	...	...	...	2 50
Standard IV.	...	...	...	3 0
Standard V.	...	...	...	3 50
Standard VI.	...	...	...	4 0
Standard VII.	...	...	...	4 50
Elementary School-leaving Certificate Class	...	...	...	5 0

In the Northern, Eastern, and North-Central Provinces :—

Lower Kindergarten	...	...	...	1 0
Upper Kindergarten	...	...	...	1 50
Standard II. and III.	...	...	...	2 0
Standard IV.	...	...	...	2 50
Standard V.	...	...	...	3 0
Standard VI.	...	...	...	3 50
Standard VII. and English School-leaving Certificate Class	...	...	...	4 0

Grade II. Schools.

Kindergarten and Standard II.	...	...	...	1 0
Standard III., IV., and V.	...	...	...	2 0
Standard VI., VII., and English School-leaving Certificate Class...	...	...	...	3 0

TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

The Government Training College consists of three departments: English (men and women), Sinhalese (men), and Sinhalese (women). The object is to supply trained teachers for aided English schools and Government English, Anglo-vernacular, and vernacular schools. At the beginning of 1924 the number of students in training was on the English side 36 men and 40 women, on the Sinhalese side 40 men and 41 women.

A training school for Tamil teachers was opened at Kopay, Jaffna, in October, 1923, and 53 students were admitted. Of

these, 22 students left the school in August 1, 1924, after passing the final examination. Twenty-two new students were admitted in October, 1924.

Besides these Government institutions there are ten assisted training schools for the training of teachers for vernacular schools. The students go through a two years' course of training and pass an examination at the end of each year's course. On the results of the second year's examination a Second Class Teachers' Certificate is issued to the successful students. One hundred and twenty-two students successfully completed their course in 1924, and obtained Second Class Teachers' Certificates.

Third Class Teachers' Certificates are issued to all monitors and pupil teachers, who have successfully gone through a three years' course of training in a Government or assisted vernacular or Anglo-vernacular school and have passed the prescribed examinations. These certificates are issued provisionally to all the monitors and pupil teachers on their passing the Third-Year Examination and are confirmed when they have completed three years' satisfactory service as a teacher. Holders of Third Class Teachers' Certificates are eligible for admission to Assisted Training Schools.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The full-time system introduced in 1923 effected considerable improvement in Government Industrial Schools. There was no difficulty in forming classes from boys who had passed the fifth standard and who were over 14 years of age. The work done by them was naturally more satisfactory than the work previously done by younger boys who were still attending the vernacular schools. Moreover, the fact that a boy joins the full-time class is evidence that he intends to try to learn some industry which he wishes to continue in after life, so that the training now being given is clearly of practical value.

The want of better teachers has been felt, especially in carpentry schools. To remedy this defect a class of 8 boys is being trained in the Technical Schools to be instructors in carpentry schools. The training being given should produce a much better type of instructor than can be obtained at present.

In 1924 the aided industrial schools, which are 35 in number, received grants amounting to Rs. 23,640. The trades taught were carpentry, dressmaking, tailoring, lacemaking, embroidery, cookery, weaving, shoemaking, and smithy work. The most important of these schools is the Magonna Certified Industrial School, which is utilized by Government as a reformatory for youthful offenders.

This institution is managed by the Roman Catholic Mission. It has an estate of some 300 acres and excellent buildings, towards the cost of which Government has contributed. 235 youthful offenders are at present receiving instruction in this school, and an allowance is paid by Government for the maintenance of each offender. The amount so paid in the year 1923-24 was Rs. 40,081.77. Another important industrial school is that at Wellawatta, Colombo, under the management of the Wesleyan Mission. The amount of grant paid to this institution in 1924 amounted to Rs. 4,800.

An impetus was given to home industries, which are taught in different parts of the Island, by the appointment of two Inspectors of Industries—one for weaving schools and one for carpentry and general industrial work. Carpentry is taught in 36 schools. Thirty-two schools are engaged in cloth-weaving, of which 8 are Government schools. Printing and bookbinding are taught in 12 schools, shoemaking in 1, and smithy work in 4 schools. Cane and rattan work in 4 schools. Three schools are equipped for lacquer work. One school is equipped for pottery work. Basket-weaving and mat-weaving are taught in several schools, hat-making in the Kalutara District, and in 25 schools there are classes in basket-making for children.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS.

Elementary agricultural instruction is given by a scheme of school gardens conducted in connection with Government schools. The gardens are under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture. There is a Superintendent of School Gardens, who is assisted by three Inspectors. The total number of registered school gardens at the end of 1924 was 543. The number of gardens attached to grant-in-aid schools was 79. 100 school gardens are awaiting registration. Seeds and implements are supplied by the Department of Agriculture, and prizes are offered for competition. Twelve Government teachers underwent a special course of training at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya. The scheme has been supplemented by the establishment of home gardens in large numbers, seeds being provided for boys who undertake to plant up vegetables in their home compounds.

TECHNICAL.

Government Technical Schools, Colombo.—A reorganization scheme was put into operation at the Government Technical Schools, Colombo, in May, 1923, and the work of the schools was divided into three branches, viz. : Technical, Commercial, and Art. There are full-time courses in telegraph and telephone engineering and signalling. In addition, evening

classes are held in building construction, mechanical engineering, electric wiring, carpentry, and joinery, there are also drawing classes for carpenters, motor drivers, and mechanics.

Commercial classes are held in English, typewriting, shorthand, bookkeeping, business routine, commercial arithmetic, and commercial geography. Art classes are held in drawing (for teachers), painting, and geometrical drawing.

The fees for a part-time course average Rs. 15 per annum, apprentices being charged half rate. The full-time courses and some commercial classes form part of the training provided by Government for apprentices and clerks in training in the Postal and Railway Services, and these students receive a maintenance allowance. An important innovation is being tried in conjunction with the Government workshops whereby apprentices attend the school for technical instruction during two full days per week.

The Jaffna Technical School was opened on October 8, 1921. There were 30 students at the end of the year. Manual training, woodwork, metal work, and drawing are taught in this school.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

1. *Numbers.*—The number of students on the rolls in August, 1924, the beginning of the academic year 1924-25, was 261. At the beginning of the previous academic year, October, 1923, there were 217 on the rolls.

2. *Courses.*—The B.A., B.Sc., and B.Sc. (Econ.) Examination of London University continue for the present to be taken; also the Pre-Registration Examination of the Ceylon Medical College. Instruction is offered in English, Latin, Greek, French, German, Sanskrit, Pali, Sinhalese, Tamil, History, Logic, Philosophy, Geography, Economics, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, and Zoology. There are Honours classes in Classics, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Botany.

3. *Examination Results.*—One student, the first to sit in Ceylon, passed the Honours Examination in Classics, being placed in the Second Class. For the B.A. (Pass) Examination, 11 students sat, of whom 9 passed. For the B.Sc. (Pass) Examination, 8 students sat, of whom 7 passed. For the Intermediate Examination in Arts, 41 sat (including a few "referred" in single subjects from the 1923 Examination), of whom 26 passed. For the Intermediate Examination in Science, 43 (including those referred) sat, of whom 28 passed.

4. *Additions to the Staff.*—The posts of Professor of Botany, Lecturer in Zoology, and Lecturer in Economics, were

filled during this year. An additional Lecturer in Classics was sanctioned, and appointed. The posts of Professor of Education and Lecturer in Psychology remained vacant.

5. *Prospectus*.—The third issue of the College prospectus, carefully revised and enlarged, appeared in July, 1924.

6. *The Library*.—The library, which is constantly expanding, consists of some 7,000 volumes (exclusive of journals, annually bound) of which about one-third concern science, and are housed in the Science buildings. The remainder are at College House, where much progress in cataloguing and arranging has been made during the year. The number of students using this part of library has increased, the maximum for a day having been 75.

7. *Student Activities*.—These have shown a marked increase in every direction. The cricket field has been greatly improved at considerable cost, and matches have been more frequent. The three tennis courts have been constantly occupied. Athletics have been practised, and representatives of the College did well at the annual sports of the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association. The College also plays rugby and association football and has a boxing club.

Debates and Lectures in English, Sinhalese, and Tamil are regular; and the Reading and Dramatic Society has been rehearsing, and hopes to stage, a modern play. The first number of the University College Magazine appeared.

8. *Hostels*.—The three hostels continued full, and the acquisition of a fourth (since opened) was under consideration during the year, showing the need and value of such institutions.

9. *University College Council*.—This council, which had been somewhat reduced by death, and the absence of members from the Island, was reconstituted during the year, and consists of 20 members, of whom a considerable proportion are members of the Legislative Council of Ceylon, some being members of the Finance Committee also.

10. *Progress of the University Project*.—The decisive event of the year 1924 was the assigning of a site of 95 acres, and the voting by the Legislative Council in February of a sum of Rs. 3,000,000 for University buildings.

Boards of studies in the various faculties were constituted early in the year, and met repeatedly for the purpose of drawing up syllabuses to suit the Degree courses worked out by the Academic Committee in 1923. Conferences were held, and careful consideration was given by those concerned to the question of the relation of Law studies to the future University.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL COMMISSION.

A more favourable financial situation has made it possible to increase the total allotted to the Archæological Department by Rs. 16,541. The total estimates, including an apportionment of Rs. 2,500 from the Government Agent, North-Central Province's vote for clearing and maintaining Crown reservations, amounted to Rs. 108,666.69. The expenditure of the department has been Rs. 102,687.23. The revenue collected from the sale of photographic prints and other miscellaneous items was Rs. 302.14.

Publications.

The year under review has inaugurated a new era in the matter of publications. The following official publications have proceeded from the department, viz.: the late Mr. E. R. Ayrton's memoirs and the Archæological section of the new Ceylon Journal of Science, besides seven unofficial publications, all by the Archæological Commissioner.

Library.

A large number of books have been added this year.

Collections.

The coin collection has received a valuable addition of 12 gold coins from a treasure trove at Allaipitti, Jaffna. The coins were identified as Gajapati pagodas. A set of South Indian coins has also been added. The excavations at Veherabāndigala added little else than potsherds, tiles, nails, and so forth. It seems to be the exception to find anything else in excavations in Ceylon. A large pot was brought from Pomparippu in the Puttalam District in fragments.

Reservations.

Application has been made for a survey of Mihintale reservation. Application has also been made for the proclamation of the area of Galgane at Dondra under the Waste Lands Ordinance. All the iron work at Polonnaruwa has been re-coated with bituminous solution. The wire ladder at Sigiriya has been put up and the frescoes have been found in excellent order, but required edging round the bottom. The frescoes are too valuable to be made accessible without control and the guard has been instructed to admit no one without a pass.

Conservation.

The work at Nakha Vehera has been completed. It suffers from the defects inherent in all conservation of brickwork. Portion of the upper structure which could have been saved if taken in hand immediately after excavation have since fallen down. The building is doubtless a square relic-house and is thus to be classed with the so-called tomb of Dutthagāmani at

Anuradhapura, and the so-called mausoleum at Polonnaruwa. The work at monastery "C" has been completed and "I" of the same series is in progress. The reason for taking successively two buildings of the same type is that the north side of the east platform seemed in some danger: it rests on a stone pier; some of the stones resting on the pier were already broken. The undertaking proved to be much greater than had been anticipated.

The work on the cave at Kaludiyapokuna and the Indikatu Sāya at Mihintale have also been completed.

Research.

The fifth part of the second volume of *Epigraphia Zeylanica* has made its appearance.

The Puttalam-Mannar coast was attacked this year from Puttalam as far as Pomparippu. It has been decided to dig up next year, if possible, a site near Pomparippu, so that that region may thus be further explored under more favourable circumstances from the excavation camp as a base. The site in question is a burial ground. Last year a site yielding chert implements was found on the northern stretch so that this coast exploration has added two new lines to the researches of the department apart from the opportunity of studying examples of types already known.

COLOMBO MUSEUM.

The Colombo Museum is a Government institution founded in 1877 by His Excellency Sir William Gregory. It is a two-storied building of imposing appearance standing in spacious grounds about 3 miles from the Fort or business centre. The Museum contains a valuable collection of archaeological, ethnological, zoological, and mineralogical exhibits restricted to Ceylon and the Maldive Islands. A valuable reference library is attached to the Museum. Readers are permitted to consult books in the library, but books cannot be removed. Over 200,000 people visit the Museum annually.

The *Ceylon Journal of Science* has been established by the Ceylon Government for the publication of scientific and other researches dealing with Ceylon. In the first instance the journal will consist of seven sections, and each section will be virtually a separate publication with its own editor. Further, each section will have its own system of paging and will appear independently of other sections. Only for purposes of general administration and to ensure uniformity will the various sections be controlled by a general Editorial Board.

FISHERIES.

Marine Fisheries.—Ceylon is admirably situated for an extensive development on modern lines of her sea fishing

industry, but so far enterprise has been notably lacking and the methods now in practice have remained primitive and inefficient. This industry gives employment to thousands of the poorer inhabitants, largely Roman Catholic Sinhalese in the south, and Hindu Tamils and Moormen (Ceylon-born Muslims) in the north and east. Sea fishing is carried on all round the coast, particularly from the more thickly populated areas of the coastal towns and villages. The craft employed are outrigger canoes and catamarans; the former being the favoured type. The larger outrigger canoes, fitted with a considerable spread of square cotton sail, are reliable and speedy, as much as 8 knots being developed under favourable conditions of wind. Small fleets of these vessels often work at distances of 20 miles from the shore, where they engage principally in line fishing for seer and other mid-water fishes. The catamaran is a small raft-shaped craft which is made up of three or four roughly shaped logs lashed together. These little vessels with their short masts and large triangular sails, though not altogether comfortable, are a handy and picturesque craft. They are used for inshore work with nets in the south, while in the Jaffna District they replace the outrigger canoe.

On account of the north-east and south-west monsoon periods, when heavy seas are running on the east and west coasts respectively, the fishing seasons of these coasts alternate. That of the west coast is more or less restricted to the north-east monsoon period—November to May—while that of the east coast flourishes during the south-west monsoon—May to December—and many fishermen, particularly the west coast Sinhalese, avail themselves of these seasons and migrate accordingly from one coast to the other. The fishes caught are largely mid-water fishes of the mackerel family, amongst which is the highly esteemed seer (*Scomberomorus guttatus*), a huge mackerel which reaches a length of three feet, and the bonitos and tunny fishes, while sword fishes and monster sharks and rays are caught in moderate numbers. Ground-feeding fishes, such as rock-cod and rock-perch, are also obtained. Shore fishing by large seine nets is practised at all parts of the coast, and at certain periods of the year large quantities of sardines are captured in this way.

Within the limits of the Ceylon Government Railway, fresh fish is transported in ice and sent to Colombo for distribution; elsewhere it is salted or dried and sent by sailing boats or carts to various parts of the Island. Practically no fish is exported from Ceylon, but considerable quantities of fish goods, now amounting to over 10 millions annually, are imported into the Island—largely from the Maldivé Islands and South India.

The following are the returns of fish imports from 1920-23 :—

Year.	Cured Fish. Rs.	Tinned Fish. Rs.	Fish Manure. Rs.	Fish Guano. Rs.	Fish Oil. Rs.	Total. Rs.
1920 ...	4,508,568 ...	230,147 ...	1,338,411 ...	1,967,961 ...	2,775 ...	8,047,862
1921 ...	7,058,148 ...	97,495 ...	370,738 ...	230,279 ...	2,105 ...	7,758,765
1922 ...	7,627,882 ...	131,882 ...	599,515 ...	1,016,245 ...	1,651 ...	9,522,175
1923 ...	8,095,475 ...	197,103 ...	799,039 ...	1,476,107 ...	2,553 ...	10,570,277

These imports are increasing year by year. Further, although no figures are available with regard to actual numbers of fishermen employed and the weights of local fish landed, there is an appreciable decline in the quantity of available fish. This decline is the direct result of a decrease in the fisher community brought about by the natural desire of the present generation to avoid as a means of livelihood an occupation which is poorly paid and which is carried on under severe and trying conditions. Contractors who control and finance the trade make no efforts to improve either condition of production. Consequently, with a rapidly increasing population, the fish supply is becoming more and more unsatisfactory. In view of this the Ceylon Government sanctioned a 3 years' Biological Survey of the costal waters of the Island with the object of making a thorough investigation into the question of available fish supply and the suitability of Ceylon waters for trawl fishing. During this investigation two large fish banks—the Pedro Bank and the Wadge Bank—have been examined, and we are now in a position to present a preliminary report of these operations.

These two fishing banks are outside territorial waters and are as accessible from the Indian coast as from Ceylon. The Pedro Bank could be fished from Negapatam or Madras and the Wadge Bank from Tuticorin, but there is no port in India from which both banks could be worked. On the other hand, Colombo is very favourably situated in this respect and could conveniently form the headquarters of fishing operations on both banks. The Pedro Bank is 6 hours' steaming (mean distance) from Kankasanturai, and that port is 14 hours from Colombo by rail. The Wadge Bank is about 18 hours' steaming from Colombo. Investigations of the possibility of establishing a successful trawling industry will be continued next year. There seems every reason to anticipate success.

Pearl Banks.—In view of the possibility of a Pearl Fishery in 1925, inspections were made in March and November-December. At the March inspection no considerable deposit of spat so far as the fishable paars were concerned was discovered. The position had however changed materially, in that there had been a reduction in the number of oysters and a reduction in the area occupied by them as compared with 1923.

The following comparative table will give some idea of the change as regards the Northern Paars.

	March, 1923.			March, 1924.		
	2nd Year.	1st Year and Younger.	Rock Area. Square Mile.	2nd and 3rd Year.	1st Year and Younger.	Rock Area. Square Mile.
<i>West Cheval—</i>						
South-east	—	334,000,000	1 1/2	10,670,000	43,000,000	1 1/2
South-west	—	1,081,500,000	1 1/2	19,530,000	25,360,000	1 1/2
North-east	39,010,000	100,000,000	1 1/2	25,940,000	55,000,000	1 1/2
Mid-north	32,970,000	200,000,000	1 1/2	36,200,000	150,000,000	1 1/2
North-west	16,910,000	100,000,000	1 1/2	16,420,000	21,400,000	1 1/2
<i>East Cheval—</i>						
South-east	—	—	1 1/2	—	150,000,000	1 1/2
South-west	—	246,000,000	1 1/2	1,500,000	44,000,000	1 1/2
Mid-south	—	18,000,000	1 1/2	—	117,000,000	1 1/2
North-east	—	—	1 1/2	—	107,600,000	1 1/2
Mid-north	—	44,000,000	1 1/2	1,340,000	180,000,000	1 1/2
North-west	—	298,000,000	1 1/2	27,310,000	15,000,000	1 1/2
<i>North Cheval—</i>						
North-east	—	—	1 1/2	—	3,700,000	1 1/2
East	—	72,000,000	1 1/2	5,330,000	2,500,000	1 1/2
Mid	4,080,000	150,000,000	1 1/2	15,270,000	148,000,000	1 1/2
West	3,560,000	50,000,000	1 1/2	6,580,000	26,000,000	1 1/2
<i>South-east Cheval</i>	—	—	—	—	205,000,000	1 1/2
<i>Moderagam</i>	—	—	—	—	67,500,000	1 1/2
<i>Periya Paar Karat</i>	21,000,000	83,000,000	1 1/2	9,850,000	55,000,000	1 1/2
<i>True Venkalai</i>	5,280,000	200,000,000	1 1/2	—	—	1 1/2
<i>Twynum's Paar (new paar)</i>	—	—	—	15,600,000	30,530,000	1 1/2

The reduction is especially apparent on the West Cheval, the Periya Paar Karai, and the True Venkalai Paars, and is—

West Cheval Paar, approximately 80 per cent.

Periya Paar Karai, approximately 40 per cent.

True Venkalai, total loss.

This in spite of the November Spatfall of 1923, which added millions of oysters to the 1923 estimate. Sargassum weed has contributed very largely to this loss on the West Cheval and Periya Paar Karai, and is wholly responsible for the loss on the True Venkalai Paar. The growth of this weed is, perhaps, the greatest menace we have to face, for it produces stagnation of the bottom layers of water, and oysters are thus unable to obtain their normal supply of food consisting of minute floating organisms. It is probable that the weed does not actually kill oysters, but drives them away. This forced migration is fatal if, as frequently happens, the oysters are obliged to migrate on to sand.

Other agencies which have contributed to the reduction are—

- (1) Diseases in the tissues of the oyster.
- (2) Attacks of predaceous fishes.
- (3) Movement of sand.

A diving inspection of those paar areas on which the oldest oysters were present was held from November to December. The weather conditions were very unfavourable and the results obtained are perhaps not too reliable. They are given below and are compared with those of March, 1924.

Paar.	Number of Old Oysters, March, 1924.	Number of Old Oysters, December, 1924.	Present Age. Years.
<i>West Cheval—</i>			
North-west area	... 16,420,000	... 7,400,000	... 2½—4
Mid-north area	... 36,200,000	... 14,160,000	... 2½—3½
North-east area	... 25,940,000	... 27,930,000	... 2½
South-west area	... 19,530,000	... 22,970,000	... 2½
South-east area	... 10,670,000	... 5,810,000	... 2½
<i>Periya Paar Karai</i>	... 9,850,000	... 4,470,000	... 2½—4
<i>Twynam's Paar</i>	... 15,600,000	... 4,840,000	... 2½—4
<i>North Cheval—</i>			
West area	... 6,580,000	... 2,580,000	... 2½
Mid area	... 15,270,000	... 9,290,000	... 2½
East area	... 5,300,000	... 2,580,000	... 2½

Even allowing for the unsatisfactory weather conditions obtaining during this inspection the oysters on north-west area of West Cheval and on the Periya Paar Karai would appear to be dying off rapidly. It was imperative, therefore, that they shall be fished in March, 1925, together with the oysters on

Twynam's Paar. With this object in view the following oysters were lifted for the purpose of pearl valuation :—

Twynam's Paar	...	1,830	(weather conditions too bad to collect a larger sample)
Periya Paar Karai	...	10,000	
North-west of West Cheval	...	8,000	
South-west of West Cheval	...	9,000	

These oysters were fished by Government divers from the inspection boats on December 9, 10, 11, and 12. The oysters were taken to the " Nautilus " immediately they were fished and there counted, bagged, and sealed. They were brought to Colombo on December 13, 1924, and washed in a specially prepared enclosure at Waters' Meet, Mutwal. The pearls were submitted to five merchants for valuation. Their valuations varied considerably, but the averages were as follows :—

		Rs. c.	
Twynam's Paar	...	17 10	} per 1,000 oysters.
Periya Paar	...	22 46	
West Cheval (north-west)	...	17 52	
West Cheval (south-west)	...	16 92	

The valuations were known to be conservative. In order to ascertain from this valuation what prices might be expected at the Fishery, the statistics of the eleven fisheries ending with that of 1906 were examined. It was found that as in the past the November valuation had been exceeded by the actual prices at the fishery by an average of 62 per cent.

The intention was to fish in March, 1925, the following quantities :—

		Millions.
Twynam's Paar	...	5
Periyar Paar Karai	...	7
West Cheval (north-west)	...	8
West Cheval (south-west)	...	10
Total	...	30

Taking a mean of the valuation of each paar the following would be the value of 30 millions :—

			Rs.
Twynam's Paar	...	...	85,000
Periya Paar Karai	...	...	157,220
West Cheval Paar (north-west)	...	...	146,160
West Cheval Paar (south-west)	...	...	169,200
Total	...	...	557,580

Allowing 62 per cent. increase on this valuation, the fishery of 1925 was thus estimated to produce Rs. 893,559, of which two-thirds would be the property of Government, namely, a sum of Rs. 595,706.

The prospects of a successful fishery in 1925 seemed good.

X.—MEDICAL.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

I.—Hospitals and other Medical Institutions.

THERE are a Lunatic Asylum, and two Leper Asylums, one at Hendala in the Western Province and the other at Mantivu in the Eastern Province, a Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Kandana in the Western Province, and 91 other Government Hospitals, including a hospital for chronic cases of pulmonary tuberculosis equipped with modern hospital furniture and medical and surgical appliances. The number of beds in the institutions ranges from 12 to 711. In addition to the hospitals there are 533 central and branch dispensaries, including a central institute in Colombo for tuberculosis cases, this last is fitted up with an up-to-date X-ray apparatus. The owners of estates have provided 78 estate hospitals, which received a rebate on export duty, and 593 estate dispensaries, receiving drugs free from Government to the value of 50 cents per labourer per annum.

The general rebuilding scheme in contemplation for the rebuilding of the Ceylon Medical College remained deferred. The full course of training at the College is five years for the medical students and two years for the apothecary students. A diploma in medicine, surgery, and midwifery (which can be registered in the United Kingdom) is granted to the successful medical students. The apothecary students are employed by Government after they qualify in the final examination.

The following were the attendances and passes during the last two years :—

	Attendances.			Passes.		
	Medical.	Apothecary.		Medical.	Apothecary.	
1922, October, to 1923, March	215	46	...	2	6	...
1923, May, to 1923, July	167	33	...	3	6	...
1923, October, to 1924, March	185	26	...	12	5	...
1924, May, to 1924, July	173	31	...	8	4	...

There are in Colombo a Bacteriological Institute, a Pasteur Institute, a General Hospital of 711 beds, an Ophthalmic Hospital, a Lying-in Home, a Hospital for Women and Children, and a Hospital for Infectious Diseases. There are special dispensaries at Kandy, Galle, and Jaffna for the treatment of eye diseases.

The Lunatic Asylum contained 1,287 inmates on December 31, 1924. The new asylum buildings at Angoda, 6 miles from Colombo, are still in progress of construction, and when

completed will have accommodation for 1,500 patients and for the necessary staff and servants. At present about 150 lunatic patients are accommodated in a temporary asylum at Matara owing to insufficient accommodation in the Colombo asylum. The number of patients treated in the asylum during 1924 was 1,666 (1,039 males and 627 females). The number discharged was 298 (196 males and 102 females). These figures include those admitted to the House of Observation.

Of the two Leper Asylums, one is at Hendala, 6 miles from Colombo, and contained 523 patients at the end of the year. The total treated during 1924 numbered 651. The asylum at Mantivu contained 119 lepers at the end of the year; the total treated during 1924 was 162.

A Home for Incurables of 89 beds is administered by a Committee of Government officials and representatives of the public.

II.—*Work of the Sanitary Department.*

(1) *Insanitary Premises.*—391,617 premises were inspected, of which 97,887 were found insanitary, and necessary action was taken.

5,395 prosecutions were entered for breaches of sanitary rules and regulations, and 3,865 convictions were obtained. 16,880 notices were served calling upon householders to remedy sanitary defects; in 13,107 cases the notices were voluntarily complied with—in the rest persuasion was required.

(2) *Buildings, New and Reconstructed.*—2,640 building applications were dealt with, and plans for 984 new buildings were passed as conforming to the requirements of the Housing Ordinance. Most applications came from small towns in the Western Province.

(3) *Infectious Diseases.*—The following cases were reported and the necessary preventive measures taken :—

Chickenpox	...	...	...	...	1,834
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1,086
Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	963
Measles	...	...	...	...	934
Mumps	...	...	...	...	30
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	116
Plague	...	...	...	...	16
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	29
Cholera	...	...	...	...	17

The Department as in previous years was also engaged in supervising the construction of latrines both public and private, the arrangements made in the small towns for scavenging, the control of licensed trades, the domestic water supplies, and the milk supply.

Sanitary propaganda was carried out by means of lantern lectures at various centres and by organizing Public Health Sections at Agricultural Shows.

III.—*Special Measures taken with regard to certain Diseases.*

(1) *Malaria*.—The office of Government Malariologist was continued throughout the year.

Education and Propaganda.—Public lantern lectures in English and the vernaculars have been given at Anuradhapura, Trincomalee, Mullaittivu, Mannar, and Erukkulampidi, and lantern lectures and demonstrations at colleges and schools at Kandy and most of the above towns. Additions to the series of lantern slides and posters relative to the subject have been made, and on a few occasions selected slides have been loaned for propaganda purposes. Many thousands of pamphlets and handbills on malaria and mosquitoes have been distributed to towns and villages in various parts of the Island and at Anuradhapura and Trincomalee in connection with the anti-malaria campaigns.

A course of lectures and demonstrations on malaria and its control was given during July and August to the Training Class for Sanitary Inspectors held by the Sanitary Branch of the Medical Department.

With a view to encouraging medical officers and others to take up the study of the indigenous anopheline mosquitoes, a paper on the differential characters of the larvæ and adults of the species known to occur in Ceylon has been prepared by the Malariologist. Endeavour has been made to render this article as comprehensive as possible, in order that the student may be relieved of the necessity of consulting text-books and original papers relating to the subject. This paper will be published in the Ceylon Journal of Science (Section D: Medical Science, at an early date, and reprints will be distributed to hospitals and the larger dispensaries.

Malaria Research.—As in previous years, these investigations have involved the examination of very large numbers of specimens, chiefly blood films and the larvæ and adults of anopheline mosquitoes; during the year 3,091 blood films and 34,020 anopheline larvæ collected in the field were prepared and examined at the Colombo and Trincomalee laboratories.

Certain of the investigations mentioned in the report for the previous year have been completed; others are in progress, including those initiated during the year. Of the latter, the

more important are inquiries into the hydrogen Ion content of various types of natural waters with reference to the breeding and relative prevalence of anopheles, and the seasonal periodicity of the different species of malaria parasites in various districts.

Larvivorous Fish.—The lines on which larvivorous fish may be utilized as a measure of mosquito control have been indicated in previous reports. The practical value of these fish is more limited than is generally supposed, and it is a mistake to imagine that under natural conditions they are of equal importance in all types of mosquito breeding places, or that they can be used to supplant the more laborious and costly methods of reduction at present adopted. Normally, their beneficial action is much restricted by nature's barriers, and it is doubtful whether, without human assistance, their presence in natural waters has any notable effect upon the prevalence of mosquitoes. Under artificial conditions—or in mosquito breeding places which are of a temporary nature only—they, however, afford an important measure of control; and it is in this connection that their exploitation in Ceylon should ultimately prove of value. Especially should this be so in those parts of the dry zone where indigenous species do not appear to be abundant, and where innumerable confined and temporary collections of water occur during the rainy season. The formation of nurseries and systematic distribution of these fish at the onset of the monsoon to such situations as rain pools, borrow pits, wells, &c., should form part of any campaign against malaria in these districts.

The nurseries of *Gambusia affinis* (? *Lebistes reticulatus*)—"Millions"—mentioned in earlier reports have been maintained, and except in one case where contamination with oil occurred; have proved very satisfactory. The fish have increased greatly in numbers, the nurseries being well stocked even although extensive distribution to wells and pools has taken place in certain districts. In some parts of the dry zone, however, it has been found necessary to protect the nurseries with netting or cadjans owing to the prevalence of kingfishers: these birds have frequently been observed feeding on the fish, more especially during the dry season when their ordinary sources of food supply are limited.

The attempts to establish *Haplochilus lineatus* in nurseries have again proved disappointing, and it is probable that the practical value of this fish will be restricted to those regions in which it is indigenous, and where distribution to confined or temporary breeding places of mosquitoes can be made from natural reservoirs.

(2) *Anchylostomiasis*.—The campaign against anchylostomiasis for the year was confined to sanitated village areas, viz. :—Homagama, Peradeniya, Matale, Dimbula, Mirigama-Minuwangoda-Veyangoda, Mahara, Jaffna Peninsula, and Weligama.

The total number of persons treated amounted to 157,864. During the year voluntary treatment of estate labourers at Mandapam Camp was started.

(3) *Parangi (Frambæsia, or Yaws)*.—The number of hospital admissions was 6,149 with 18 deaths, as against 9,748 admissions with 32 deaths in 1923. The decrease in the number of admissions to hospitals during the year was due to intensive campaigns by seven Itinerating Medical Officers in the Central, Southern, Eastern, North-Western, North-Central, Uva, and Sabaragamuwa Provinces, and the treatment of a large number of out-patients brought by headmen to and voluntarily seeking treatment at dispensaries and the out-patient departments of hospitals.

The distribution of the disease judged from hospital returns is shown in the following table :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
General Hospital, Colombo	267	306	436	445
Western Province	1,096	1,499	770	485
Central Province	1,202	1,312	1,194	911
Northern Province	157	102	504	367
Eastern Province	749	791	646	404
Southern Province	1,093	5,085	2,672	1,123
North-Western Province	711	784	645	400
North-Central Province	374	594	696	584
Province of Uva	684	594	731	370
Province of Sabaragamuwa	1,841	2,221	1,741	1,058
Railway Extensions	—	—	11	2
Total	8,161	13,545	9,748	6,149

The dispensary cases as regards Provinces were as follows :—

	1923.	1924.
Western	3,393	2,701
Central	2,942	2,812
Northern	866	818
Eastern	5,050	4,066
Southern	8,501	6,006
North-Western	12,254	13,023
North-Central	19,185	17,748
Uva	1,871	1,011
Sabaragamuwa	2,397	2,051

The seven Itinerating Medical Officers treated a total number of 17,852 cases, and a large number of these patients attended

a second and a third time, and 33,052 injections were given during the campaign in 1924, as against 16,815 cases and 30,139 injections in 1923.

Dr. J. A. E. Corea, a private practitioner, visited Kanjukulia, Hettipola, and Bingiriya in the Chilaw District, and treated 147 cases of parangi during the year with drugs supplied by Government.

PLAGUE AND QUARANTINE.

Cases	...	...	...	...	153
Deaths	...	...	...	...	145

Of these, five cases and deaths were reported from outstations as follows :—

				Cases.	Deaths.
Kalutara	...	...	...	1	1
Talaimannar	...	...	...	1	1
Peliyagoda	...	...	...	1	1
Talawakele	...	...	...	2	2

Plague, for all practical purposes, is confined to Colombo.

PLAGUE IN COLOMBO.

Human Plague.—148 cases and 140 deaths from plague occurred during the year 1924, the case mortality being thus 94.5 per cent. The corresponding figures for 1923 were 230 cases, and 209 deaths, representing a case mortality of 90.9 per cent.

For the first time in the history of plague in Colombo, primary pneumonic plague appeared during the month of March. A series of seven cases occurred : a father, his three sons, a priest who visited one of the sons, the priest's father, and the servant who attended upon the priest, being the victims. The first case occurred on March 23 and the last on April 13. 98 bubonic and 47 septicaemic cases occurred, the case mortality being 91.5 and 100 per cent., respectively. Young adult males, as usual, were the chief sufferers. The chief centres of infection were St. Paul's, Pettah, and San Sebastian, the incidence in other parts of the town being sporadic.

Rat Plague.—Exclusive of 120 rats found in a mummified condition, most, if not all, of which had probably died of plague, 87 infected rats were found amongst 29,429 examined at the Laboratory, the infection rate being 0.29 per cent., as compared with an infection rate of 0.52 during 1923.

Annual Incidence of Plague Cases in Colombo.

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	Average, 1914 to 1923.	1924.
Total cases ...	413	189	391	207	70	87	235	184	186	230	199	148
Total deaths ...	381	198	278	196	69	82	223	170	181	209	186	140
Septicaemic cases	247	81	159	124	41	50	93	70	67	66	99	47
Septicaemic deaths	246	80	159	124	41	50	93	70	67	66	99	47
Bubonic cases	166	58	132	88	29	37	142	114	79	164	100	94
Bubonic deaths	135	48	114	72	28	32	130	100	74	143	87	86
Pneumonic cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Pneumonic deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Total case mortality, per cent.	92.2	92.8	98.8	94.7	98.6	94.3	94.9	92.4	96.3	90.9	93.5	94.5
Septicaemic case mortality, per cent.	93.6	98.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Bubonic case mortality, per cent.	81.3	82.7	86.4	86.7	96.6	86.5	91.5	87.7	93.8	87.3	87.3	91.5
Pneumonic case mortality, per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0

The cases for 1914 and 1915 each includes one septicaemic recovery, but the diagnosis was not in either case confirmed bacteriologically, and may have been erroneous.

Only two out of the seven cases were definitely diagnosed as pneumonic, the other five cases were, however, on clinical and epidemiological grounds undoubtedly cases of primary pneumonic plague.

Monthly Incidence of Plague Cases in Colombo.

Month.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	Average, 1914 to 1923.	1924.
January	4	19	17	25	13	—	25	65	13	23	21	46
February	67	6	18	40	18	1	20	53	10	32	27	22
March	58	3	18	61	10	3	3	27	6	11	20	7
April	28	3	14	34	11	—	3	7	2	17	12	24
May	29	3	11	11	2	—	4	2	7	9	8	9
June	49	1	36	3	9	—	3	1	8	10	12	6
July	47	5	43	6	2	—	12	3	10	21	15	11
August	40	20	35	1	1	2	7	2	7	23	14	5
September	18	21	25	3	—	5	18	2	7	26	12	3
October	23	24	24	7	—	18	28	9	14	12	16	3
November	24	10	25	10	2	34	34	4	19	13	17	8
December	26	24	25	6	2	24	78	9	33	23	25	4
Total for the year	413	139	201	207	70	87	235	184	136	280	199	148
Monthly mean	34.4	11.6	24.2	17.2	6.8	7.2	19.6	15.8	11.8	10.2	16.6	12.3

Plague in Colombo, Distribution by Wards.

Wards.	Cases.	Deaths.
Fort ...	—	—
Pettah ...	24	24
San Sebastian ...	17	16
St. Paul's ...	29	28
Kotahena ...	9	8
Mutwal ...	7	7
New Bazaar ...	17	15
Maradana North ...	4	2
Maradana South ...	4	4
Dematagoda ...	6	6
Slave Island ...	15	15
Kollupitiya ...	2	2
Cinnamon Gardens ...	—	—
Bambalapitiya ...	1	1
Timbirigasyaya ...	4	4
Wellawatta ...	—	—
Untraced ...	9	8
Total ...	148	140

Rat Destruction in Colombo, All Sources, 1924.

Number of rats trapped ...	134,248
Number of dead rats found by Veterinary Surgeon ...	50
Number of dead rats found by Plague Inspector ...	123
Number of rats killed by Clayton machine ...	2,865
Number of mummified rats found ...	120
Total ...	137,406
Number of poison baits placed ...	1,782,000
Number of poison baits removed ...	76,690

Plague in Colombo.

Statement showing Rats Examined at the Laboratory, Number found Infected, and Percentage Infection.

Month.	Number of Rats Examined.	Number Infected.	Percentage Infection.
January ...	2,471	21	0.85
February ...	2,700	8	0.29
March ...	2,793	15	0.54
April ...	2,101	4	0.19
May ...	2,399	12	0.5
June ...	2,331	1	0.04
July ...	2,622	3	0.11
August ...	2,777	20	0.72
September ...	2,506	—	—
October ...	2,381	—	—
November ...	2,460	1	0.04
December ...	1,888	2	0.1
	29,429	87	0.29

Seventy-three specimens of musk rat "*Crocydura coerulea*" brought to the laboratory were examined. This number and 124 mummified rats received in the laboratory are not included in the above figures.

Plague Cases in Colombo in 1924.

Distribution by Race, Age, and Sex.

Race.	Sex.	Age.										Total of each Race.	Case Rate per 1,000 Population.	Deaths.	Case Mortality Per Cent.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.
		0 to 5 Years.	5 to 10 Years.	10 to 15 Years.	15 to 20 Years.	20 to 25 Years.	25 to 30 Years.	30 to 35 Years.	35 to 40 Years.	40 to 50 Years.	50 to 60 Years.	60 Years and Over.				
All Races	M	1	2	17	31	16	21	11	8	10	4	4	127	148	94.5	0.55
	F	—	4	4	2	4	2	3	—	1	—	—	21	—	—	—
Burghers	M	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	5	7	100.0	0.45
	F	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Sinhalese	M	1	2	6	8	3	3	2	1	2	3	1	32	38	94.7	0.30
	F	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	—
Tamils	M	—	—	4	12	9	9	3	6	3	—	2	48	58	94.8	0.98
	F	—	1	2	1	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	10	—	—	—
Moors	M	—	—	6	6	4	7	4	1	5	—	1	34	37	94.6	0.85
	F	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Malays	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	M	—	—	—	3	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	8	8	87.5	0.56
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		1	6	21	33	22	23	14	8	11	5	4	148	—	—	—
both sexes		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Plague, Smallpox, and Cholera in Ceylon in 1924

<i>Plague.</i>			<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Colombo town	...	...	148	140
Colombo Port	...	...	—	—
Kalutara	...	...	1	1
Talaimannar	...	...	1	1
Peliyagoda	...	...	1	1
Talawakele (Holyrood Bazaar)	...	...	2	2
Total			153	145

<i>Smallpox.</i>				
Colombo town	...	...	4	—
Colombo Port	...	...	4	—
Admitted to Infectious Diseases Hospital, Colombo, from outside Colombo	...	...	8	4
North-Western Province :—				
Marawila	...	...	1	—
Province of Sabaragamuwa :—				
Ratnapura	...	...	1	—
Central Province :—				
Adamspeak estate	...	...	1	—
Northern Province :—				
Jaffna District	...	...	26	5
			45	9

<i>Cholera.</i>				
Colombo town	...	...	1	1
Colombo Port	...	...	1	—
Kurunegala	...	...	1	1
Pussellawa	...	...	1	—
Balangoda (Rye estate)	...	...	1	1
Maskeliya (Cleveland estate)	...	...	3	3
Namunukula (Kandahena estate)	...	...	3	2
Passara Hospital	...	...	1	1
Badulla District	...	...	5	5
			17	14
Typhus fever (Colombo Port—steamer)			1	1
Cerebro spinal fever (Colombo Port—steamer)			1	1
Diphtheria (Moratuwa)			1	—

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The estimated population on December 31, 1924, was 4,861,670, as against 4,703,343 at the end of 1923, and 4,498,605 at the Census of March 18, 1921. The increase of 158,327 persons over the population of the previous year was due to an excess of 55,907 births over deaths, and an excess of 102,420 immigrants over emigrants.

Migration.—The total number of arrivals during the year amounted to 258,943 persons, and the departures 156,523 persons. Of the arrivals 237,287 persons were from India and 21,656 from other countries. The departures included 137,292 persons to India and 19,231 to other countries. The excess of arrivals over departures from India is remarkably high this

year, and is over twice as much as that of the previous year, and about four times as much as that in 1922. The heavy influx of immigrants from India may be largely due to the prosperity of the tea industry in Ceylon and the unfavourable agricultural conditions in South India.

Race Constitution of the Population.—The population of the principal races of the Island as estimated to the end of the year, and the proportion of each race per 1,000 of the total population are as follows :—

Races.			Estimated Population on December 31, 1924.	Proportion of each Race per 1,000 of the Population
Europeans	...	...	10,005	2.1
Burghers and Eurasians	...	...	31,067	6.4
Sinhalese	...	...	3,167,988	651.6
Tamils	...	...	1,146,058	235.7
Moors	...	...	290,254	59.7
Malays	...	...	14,078	2.9
Others	...	...	26,288	5.4
Excess of immigrants over emigrants (exclusive of Europeans) since March 18, 1921			175,932	36.2

Race Constitution of the Population.—The population of the registered in 1924 was 27,117, of which 20,911 were under the General Marriages Ordinance and 6,206 under the Kandyan. The total number was the highest since 1915, and was 3,789 marriages more than that in the previous year. The rate of persons married per 1,000 of the estimated population was 12.1, as against 10.8, the rate in the previous year and 11.3 the average for the past decade. This would point to better social and economic conditions now prevailing in the country.

The number of Muslim marriages registered amounted to 854, as against 838 in the previous year.

Of the total number of marriages registered in the Island, the marriages in which one or both the parties have been residents of the proclaimed towns were estimated at 4,124. Of this number, 3,469 were marriages under the General Marriages Ordinance, 54 under the Kandyan, and 601 under the Muslim.

Births.—The total number of births registered during the year was 178,866, of which 91,199 were males and 87,667 females. The number showed a decrease of 2,571 births over that in the previous year, and corresponded to a rate of 37.3 per mille of the estimated population, as against 39.1 in 1923 and 38.5 the average for the past decennium. The highest birth-rate was 44.6 per mille in the Province of Uva, and the lowest 32.1 in the Western.

The proportion of male to female children born during the year was 1,040 to 1,000, as against 1,038 in the preceding year.

The births registered on the estates scheduled under the Medical Wants Ordinance numbered 24,230 (12,322 males and 11,908 females), showing a decrease of 2,691 births relative to the previous year. In the 33 principal towns the number registered was 18,674, and was 990 births less than in 1923. The birth-rate per mille of the urban population was 30.3, as against 32.2 in 1923 and 29.1 the average for the past decade. In the city of Colombo 6,887 births were registered during the year and the corresponding rate per mille of the population was 27.2, as against 28.4 in the previous year and 24.6 the average for the past decennium.

Deaths.—The deaths of 122,959 persons (62,440 males and 60,519 females) were registered in 1924. The number is the lowest registered since 1917 and is 11,076 deaths less than the past decennial average. The death-rate calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population was equal to 25.7, as against 30.6 in 1923. The highest death-rate recorded was 46.7 in the North-Central Province, and the lowest 19.9 in the Western. The improvement in the mortality was shared by all the Provinces except the Eastern. The North-Western and the North-Central Provinces which are regarded as unhealthy districts showed decidedly improved rates, the former 22.7 and the latter 46.7, as against 38.0 and 58.5 respectively in the preceding year.

The number of deaths registered on the estates scheduled under the Medical Wants Ordinance was 20,542 (9,984 males and 10,558 females), which is 2,992 deaths in excess of the number in 1923 and 177 in excess of the past decennial average. In the 33 principal towns the number of deaths registered was 20,519. Of this, 16,245 deaths were of town residents, and the corresponding standardized rate was 28.5 per mille, as against 33.3 in the previous year and 30.2 the average for the past ten years. In the city of Colombo 7,432 deaths were registered, of which 6,324 were of residents. The standardized death-rate per mille of the population was 28.8 and was 6.4 per mille less than that of the previous year. The average rate for the past decade was 28.7.

Infant Mortality.—The mortality of children under one year amounted to 33,348, and represented 27 per cent. of the total deaths as in the previous year. Calculated on the number of births registered during the year, the rate was 186 per 1,000. The rate is the lowest since 1919 and is an improvement on the average for the last decennium (193).

On the estates the number of children who died in the first year of life was 6,193, and amounted to 30 per cent. of the estate mortality at all ages. The death-rate calculated on +'

births registered during the year was equal to 256 per 1,000, as against 222 in the previous year and 224 the average rate for the past ten years. The mortality of infants under one year in the 33 principal towns was 4,385 and corresponded to a rate of 235 per 1,000 births registered, and was 23 per 1,000 lower than the rate in 1923. With the exception of the rate (225) recorded in 1920, this year's rate is the lowest since 1917, the average rate for the past decade being 243. In the city of Colombo the infant death-rate was 240 per 1,000 births, as against 270 in the preceding year and 254 the average for the past decade.

Causes of Death.—Of the 122,959 deaths registered from all causes during the year, the highest number, as usual, was attributed to pyrexia (fever), which owing to the ignorance of rural registrars of correct diagnosis includes a good many deaths from various other causes. Infantile convulsions, diarrhoea, and pneumonia were also returned as the cause of considerable mortality. The rate of mortality per million of the estimated population from certain selected causes registered in the Island in this and the previous year is shown below :—

			1923.		1924.
Pyrexia	...	...	5,023	...	3,694
Infantile convulsions	...	...	3,481	...	2,901
Diarrhoea	...	...	2,345	...	1,884
Pneumonia	...	...	1,921	...	1,741
Phthisis	...	...	717	...	675
Dysentery	...	...	716	...	852
Influenza	...	...	508	...	360
Malaria and malarial cachexia	...	...	573	...	360
Premature birth and congenital defects	...	...	427	...	427
Anchylostomiasis	...	...	400	...	387
Puerperal septicaemia	...	...	338	...	276
Bronchitis	...	...	293	...	266
Enteric fever	...	...	129	...	170
Cancer	...	...	93	...	99

The above rates would indicate that the decrease in the total mortality of the Island was shared by most of the principal diseases, the notable exceptions being dysentery and enteric fever.

Influenza.—1,725 deaths (891 males and 834 females) were registered from influenza during the year, as against 2,358 in the previous year. The number which is the lowest since its outbreak in 1918 would suggest that it is now a spent force in this country.

Pneumonia.—There were registered during the year 8,339 deaths (4,596 males and 3,743 females) from pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia, as against 8,921 in the previous year. The number is higher than the average for the past decade.

Plague.—154 deaths (132 males and 22 females) were registered from plague this year, reducing the number in 1923 by 59 cases.

In the city of Colombo, where the disease is most rife, 140 deaths were registered (119 males and 21 females). Of the rest, 7 were registered in Kalutara District, 2 in Nuwara Eliya, and 1 each in Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Mannar, and Ratnapura Districts. Deaths from plague were spread over all the months, with a maximum of 44 in January and a minimum of 3 in October.

Smallpox.—The number of deaths registered from smallpox amounted to 8 (5 males and 3 females) a remarkably low number when compared with 33 in the previous year and 44 the decennial average. Of these, 3 cases were registered in the first quarter of the year and 5 in the fourth. Jaffna town recorded 5 deaths and Colombo town 3.

Cholera.—Twenty deaths (9 males and 11 females) from cholera were registered during the year, as against 8 in the preceding year. 16 of these deaths were recorded in Kandy District, and 1 each in Colombo, Kurunegala, Badulla, and Ratnapura Districts.

Affections produced by External Causes.—The total number of deaths tabulated under this head was 2,492 (1,828 males and 664 females), as against 2,435 in 1923. Of this, the total number of deaths from accidents and other external violence was 2,014. 429 were due to drowning and 418 to falls from trees, 185 of the former and 3 of the latter being females. Burns caused 190 deaths (93 males and 97 females), 31 of which were due to the upsetting of bottle lamps. Snake-bite caused 255 deaths (172 males and 83 females), as against 263 in the preceding year.

Suicide.—There were 230 cases of suicide (166 males and 64 females), as against 207 in the previous year.

Homicide.—207 deaths (145 males and 62 females) were returned from homicide, as against 238 in 1923. The knife was the instrument employed in many of the cases.

Executions.—Forty-one men underwent the extreme penalty of the law during the year, as against 42 in 1923.

Causes of Deaths on Estates.—Of the 20,542 deaths registered on estates no less than 4,050 were attributed to debility, that of infants under three months alone numbering 2,997. Pneumonia caused 2,990 deaths, as against 2,932 in 1923. There were registered from infantile convulsions 1,636 deaths, from dysentery 2,402, and from anchylostomiasis 1,240. Diarrhoea caused 1,495 deaths, exceeding the number in 1923 by as much as 523 deaths. Under premature births and congenital defects were classified 772 deaths, under influenza 410, under bronchitis 424, under malaria and malarial cachexia

203, and under phthisis 317. There were 30 cases of suicide and 16 of homicide, as against 24 and 13 respectively in the previous year.

Causes of Death in Towns.—The deaths registered from all causes in the 33 principal towns numbered 20,519. Pneumonia, as usual, exacted the highest toll of 2,951 lives, as against 3,485 in 1923. 1,497 deaths were attributed to debility of infants, 1,406 to convulsions, and 1,286 to phthisis. There were 947 deaths from diarrhoea, 945 from dysentery, 879 from malaria and malarial cachexia, 751 from enteritis, 616 from anchylostomiasis, 617 from Bright's disease and nephritis, and 555 from enteric fever. Deaths from bronchitis numbered 359, from puerperal septicaemia 287, from influenza 283, from cancer 178, and from plague 142. Accidents in 406 deaths. There were 47 deaths from suicide and 60 from homicide.

XI.—LAW AND JUSTICE.

LEGISLATION.

TWENTY-FIVE Ordinances were passed during the year, some of them being amending Ordinances which call for no special comment.

The more important new Ordinances are—

Ordinance No. 2.—This Ordinance was passed in order to amend the constitution of the governing body of the town of Nuwara Eliya by the granting of more popular control over the administration of the town to the inhabitants. The position of Nuwara Eliya as a sanatorium to which many persons, not only from the Colony, but also from many other parts of the world, resorted had been recognized by the special enactment, Ordinance No. 26 of 1896, and the inhabitants were satisfied with an amendment of that Ordinance as the most desirable form of administration for the town.

Ordinance No. 3.—The objects of this Ordinance were to raise the rate of interest legally payable on moneys of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund invested with the Government, to make it lawful to apply new pension tables on the basis of the higher rate of interest, to remove a maximum limit of pension payable and to bring the provisions of the law in regard to certain technical matters into line with existing practice.

Ordinance No. 4.—This Ordinance was enacted to provide machinery for working flood protection schemes. It deals with the steps which have to be taken for the preparation, consideration, and execution of any scheme that may be prepared to deal with the flood problem in any part of the Island.

Ordinance No. 5.—The Ceylon Penal Code was amended in several respects by this Ordinance. Criminal conspiracy was for the first time made a penal offence. A new chapter was added to the Penal Code making bribery, undue influence and personation at elections, and the making of false statements in connection with elections, offences punishable under the ordinary penal law. Acts of gross indecency between male persons were made a penal offence, and certain minor amendments were effected.

Ordinance No. 9.—This Ordinance consolidated the law relating to Village Communities. Most of the principles laid down in the Ordinance of 1889 have been maintained.

Ordinance No. 10.—The object of this Ordinance was to consolidate the law dealing with the control of weeds and pests in the Colony.

Ordinance No. 24.—This Ordinance constituted a Medical Council for Ceylon to deal with the registration of medical practitioners, and all questions as regards professional conduct.

THE SUPREME COURT.

During the year 1,235 minor appeals (*i.e.*, District Court Criminal Appeals, Police Court Appeals, and Court of Requests Appeals) were received and 1,265 were disposed of. 614 major appeals (*i.e.*, appeals from District Court) were received and 596 were disposed of. The total number of appeals decided was thus 1,861. But in addition to these appeals, the court and the Judges have to deal with a great number of incidental applications and petitions. The figures with regard to these are as follows :—

Applications for leave to appeal in Court of Requests cases			
disposed of during the year	...	...	122
Applications for sole testamentary jurisdiction	...	...	192
Miscellaneous applications	...	...	356
<i>Habeas corpus</i> petitions	...	...	388
Other petitions	...	...	334
			<hr/> 1,392 <hr/>

The disposal of the civil work of the court is shown in the following table :—

Disposal of Work for the Year ending December 31, 1924.

(1) Number of major appeals disposed of during the year 1924—

(1) Finals—				
Money	...	...	168	} = 387
Land	...	...	219	
(2) Interlocutories—				
Ordinary	...	...	110	} = 209
Special	...	...	99	
				<hr/> 596

With regard to the interval at which appeals are disposed of, the facts are as follows :—

Criminal appeals are generally disposed of within about a month of their receipt at the Registry. Court of Requests Appeals are generally disposed of within about six weeks. Ordinary Interlocutory Appeals are generally disposed of within a month, Special Interlocutories within two months. District Court finals, however, which constitute the main work of the court, still require in ordinary cases from six to seven months to be brought to trial, although in certain exceptional cases the interval is much shorter.

Number of minor appeals disposed of during the year 1924—

(1) District Court criminals	...	...	130
(2) Police Courts	...	...	780
(3) Courts of Requests	...	...	355
			<hr/> 1,265

An important part of the appeal work of the court consists of the decision of those cases which are referred to courts of three or five Judges, generally, though not quite accurately described as Full Court cases. The number of these cases referred during the year was 11 and the number of days occupied in their consideration was 16.*

The results of the appeals decided by the court are shown in the following table :—

<i>Major Appeals.</i>							Total.
	Appeals Allowed.		Appeals Dismissed.		Appeals made the Subject of Intermediate Orders.		
Finals ..	91	...	215	...	81	...	387
Interlocutories	74	...	89	...	46	...	209
							<hr/> 596
<i>Minor Appeals.</i>							
District Court criminals...	20	...	89	...	21	...	
Police Courts	214	...	440	...	126	...	780
Courts of Requests	92	...	202	...	61	...	355
							<hr/> 1,265

* Note :—Including 3 references under Section 355, Criminal Procedure Code.
14 courts of three Judges.
2 courts of five Judges.

Trials on Circuit.

The total number of cases tried at Criminal Sessions throughout the Colony during the year 1924 was 354, and the days consumed in disposing of them were 442. The comparative figures for the last five years are as follows:—

			Cases Disposed of.	Days Consumed.
1920	...	...	338	417
1921	...	...	402	445
1922	...	...	296	357
1923	...	...	325	411
1924	...	...	385	475

These cases were distributed among the circuits in the following proportions:—

Western Circuit	...	...	...	212
Midland Circuit	...	...	...	95
Southern Circuit	...	...	...	57
Northern Circuit	...	...	...	14
Eastern Circuit	...	...	...	7
				<hr/> 385

POLICE.

Part I.—The Force.

I. *Strength.*—The strength of the Force on December 31, 1924, provided for in the Estimates was—

Inspector-General	...	...	...	1
Deputy Inspectors-General	...	...	...	2
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents, and Probationers	...	...	...	35
Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors	...	...	...	171
Serjeants-Major	...	...	...	2
Sergeants	...	...	...	352
Constables	...	...	...	2,466

European Police Force.

Inspectors	...	...	...	1
Sub-Inspectors	...	...	...	3
Sergeants	...	...	...	30
				<hr/>
Total of all ranks	...	...	...	3,063

The total strength of the Force was short by 62 on December 31, 1924.

The greatest care is taken in selecting the right class of man for enlistment, and since the operation of the new Salaries Scheme a higher standard of education and intelligence has been aimed at.

II. *Expenditure.*—The cost of the Force was Rs. 3,176,175 approximately. The cost of police per man is Rs. 1,037 per annum. The cost per head of population is 70 cents or 11½ pence.

Part II.—Crime.

III. *Crime committed during the Year.*—The following is a comparison of the figures for the last three years :—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
Homicide ...	202 ...	189 ...	217
Attempted homicide ...	58 ...	51 ...	77
Grievous hurt ...	718 ...	730 ...	877
Hurt with dangerous weapons ...	1,097 ...	921 ...	1,101
Burglary ...	1,682 ...	1,681 ...	1,713
Theft of cattle and praedial produce ...	810 ...	605 ...	472
Other offences ...	2,478 ...	2,320 ...	2,476
Total ...	7,045	6,497	6,933

Classifying crime under three main heads, we get the following figures for the last six years. “Offences against the Person,” which are not directly preventable by police action are here shown separately from “Offences against Property,” which is classified as “Preventable Crime.”

Year.	Total Crime.	Offences against the Person (excluding Robbery).	Preventable Crime, Offences against Property (including Robbery).	Offences against the State.
1919 ...	8,577 ...	2,045 ...	6,506 ...	26
1920 ...	8,189 ...	2,107 ...	6,055 ...	27
1921 ...	7,640 ...	2,122 ...	5,494 ...	24
1922 ...	7,045 ...	2,212 ...	4,805 ...	28
1923 ...	6,497 ...	2,020 ...	4,444 ...	33
1924 ...	6,933 ...	2,433 ...	4,469 ...	31

From these tables it will be seen that, whereas the number of cases of preventable crime in 1924 is less than that in any previous year, with the exception of 1923, and may be called “normal,” the number of offences against the person in 1924 is the highest figure recorded in the last six years.

Crimes of Violence.—The prevalence of murder and the large number of other crimes of violence is a marked feature of the crime statistics of the Colony. The 217 murders committed in 1924 compared with the population averages 1 murder to every 20,700 persons. In 121 murders a knife was the weapon used, and the same high proportion applies to cases of grievous hurt and hurt with dangerous weapons.

Offences against Property.—A satisfactory feature of the year’s work is the decrease in cattle thefts. Cattle stealing in Ceylon has always been a common form of crime owing to the number of cattle, the similarity in appearance, and the unconfined manner in which they graze at large, all of which help to make theft simple and detection difficult. A special effort has been made in recent years by enforcing the law relating to the branding, sale, transfer, and slaughter of cattle to place

difficulties in the way of the cattle lifter. The following are the figures for the last six years. With cattle theft is included theft of praedial produce :—

Year.						No. of Cases.
1919	...	...	...	...	...	1,325
1920	...	...	...	...	...	1,068
1921	...	...	...	...	...	1,036
1922	...	...	...	...	...	810
1923	...	...	...	...	...	605
1924	...	...	...	...	...	472

IV. *Distribution of Crime.*—The following table shows the distribution of crime :—

Province.	Homicide.	Attempted Homicide.	Grievous Hurt.	Hurt with Dangerous Weapons.	Burglary.	Theft of Cattle and Praedial Produce.	Other Offences.	Total.
Western	69	32	249	317	437	174	428	1,706
North-Western	32	16	125	151	247	94	323	988
Southern	35	13	136	200	247	79	210	920
Central	19	7	126	128	251	21	357	909
Sabaragamuwa	23	8	56	92	264	32	245	720
Colombo City	16	—	70	107	87	2	384	666
Northern	11	—	67	61	56	25	272	492
Uva	4	—	22	19	60	22	130	257
Eastern	4	—	22	22	27	19	85	179
North-Central	4	1	4	4	37	4	42	96
Total	217	77	877	1,101	1,713	472	2,476	6,933

Comparing the number of serious offences committed with the population (as given in 1921 Census Report) it is found that—

In the Colombo City	there is 1 case of crime to every 386 persons.
In the North-Western Province	do. 498 do.
In the Western Province	do. 580 do.
In the Province of Sabaragamuwa	do. 655 do.
In the Southern Province	do. 730 do.
In the Northern Province	do. 762 do.
In the Central Province	do. 790 do.
In the Province of Uva	do. 910 do.
In the North-Central Province	do. 1,005 do.
In the Eastern Province	do. 1,077 do.

The proportion of serious crime to population in Ceylon is 1 case of serious crime per annum to every 649 persons.

Preventable crime (*i.e.*, offences against property, including robbery) in the Western, Northern, North-Western, Uva, and North-Central Provinces was normal. There was a decrease in crime in the Southern Province of 30 per cent. There was an increase of crime in the Eastern Province, 24 per cent.; Colombo city, 17 per cent.; in the Province of Sabaragamuwa, 14 per cent.; and in the Central Province, 10 per cent.

In the Eastern Province it will be seen that since the starting of the work on the new railway to Trincomalee and Batticaloa crime has increased. The call has already come from the

Eastern Province for more police to deal with the increased crime consequent on the influx of bad characters from other Provinces to work on the new railway. This is a typical example of how, from a hitherto peaceful Province in which the headmen could perfectly well maintain order amongst their own people, the call comes for police as the development of the Provinces attracts strangers over whom the local headmen have no control.

The most criminal districts in the Island in 1924 were Colombo city and the Kalutara, Ratnapura, Chilaw, and Tangalla Districts.

V. Action taken to deal with Crime: (1) Means of Communication.—Funds were provided for extending the telephone connection between outlying police stations and the headquarters of the Province or district. Of the 160 police stations in the Island, 104 are now on the telephone. Prompt means of communication is of the greatest assistance in police work, and many cases were recorded during the year in which the arrest of the offender or the tracing of stolen property would not have been possible but for the immediate use of the telegraph or telephone.

(2) Funds have been provided for the opening up of a new police station at Welimada to deal with crime in the area which lies between Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, and Bandarawela, and is at present unpoliced.

(3) *Gang Robberies.*—The crime of gang robbery which is unknown in some Provinces has always called for special preventive measures in the Kurunegala and Galle Districts. Of the 35 cases reported to the police during the year, 11 were committed in the Galle District and 12 in the Kurunegala District. In most cases it appeared that persons belonging to the particular locality supplied information or assisted in the crime, but that the real robbers came from a distance. The method of tracing the offenders which has proved most effective is that of tracing the disposal of any property stolen. This necessitates a system of co-operation between stations and districts adjoining that in which the robbery has occurred. It has been found that gang robberies are frequently committed on the borders of two police station areas or of two districts, and special steps have been taken to organize inter-station and inter-district patrols to secure co-operation of neighbouring stations and districts in preventing and detecting this form of crime.

(4) *Tea Thefts.*—In the tea planting districts, within the last few years the system of buying green leaf has considerably developed and several factories are working almost entirely on

bought leaf. The ready market and the high prices realized for green leaf makes it necessary for special measures to be taken to prevent theft of green leaf. The increasing number of tea gardens in villages and small plantations opened a market for stolen tea stumps and plants, and particularly in the Province of Sabaragamuwa thefts of tea stumps were becoming common. Notices were distributed to be prominently posted in which the provisions and penalties of Ordinance 38 of 1917 (Protection of Produce Ordinance) were set forth in English, Sinhalese, and Tamil, and this action together with the enforcing of the Ordinance has had effect in preventing thefts of green leaf. The enforcing of regulations 6 and 9 framed in 1921 under Ordinance 5 of 1901, which prohibit the removal of tea stumps and tea plants without a permit provide a check on the theft of tea stumps and a copy of these regulations was included in the notices distributed.

Seventy-two prosecutions in the Central Province and 22 in the Province of Sabaragamuwa were entered during the year.

(5) *Close Supervision of Dangerous Characters*.—Special attention is being given to the close supervision of dangerous characters as opposed to the general supervision of all "Re-convicted Criminals." Besides the re-convicted criminal there is another class of persons who require to be specially watched by the police. These may have only one conviction, but the fact that they show system and method in committing crime and a distinctly criminal mind signals them out to be specially watched and supervised. The worst criminals of both these classes are regarded as dangerous criminals and the majority have been photographed.

A new system of photographing re-convicted criminals on the Monday prior to their release from jail was introduced early in the year. Constables who have been specially detailed to supervise criminals attend when the photographs are taken and criminals who are considered dangerous and who have a marked *modus operandi* are specially pointed out.

A central bureau for the card-indexing of all dangerous criminals who display a marked *modus operandi* and are known to operate or to be likely to operate in and around Colombo has now been started. The Criminal Investigation Department, the Finger Print Bureau, *Modus Operandi* Card Index, and Photographic Branch are now all under one roof and in a case of crime all can be consulted at one visit.

(6) *Legislation in regard to Female Offenders*.—The amendment of the rules made under "The Habitual Criminals and Licensed Convicts Ordinance, No. 32 of 1914," was found necessary in order to empower the police to take the finger

prints of women and obtain deterrent punishment in the case of incorrigible offenders. Hitherto the police were unable to prove in court the previous convictions of a female offender as finger prints were not taken. Since the rules were amended in July, 213 finger print slips of females accused of crime were received for search and four women were traced as having been previously convicted.

(7) *Co-operation by the Railway Staff and by the Public.*—The Railway staff have been particularly helpful in bringing to notice and detecting persons committing theft from passengers on the Railway, and 29 cases have been brought to the notice of the General Manager in which observation and prompt action by an officer of the Railway staff had resulted in the detection of crime. The officers were in each case rewarded.

There were several instances during the year of members of the public rendering assistance to the police in the prevention of crime and in saving life.

(8) *Prevention of Crime.*—The importance of dealing with crime—both prevention and detection—with methods based on a knowledge of the manner in which criminals keep to one *modus operandi* and class of crime, and a knowledge of the fact that the greater part of crime is committed by criminals of this class, has been made a subject for instruction of all ranks. It is being continually proved that epidemics of crime of one class are almost invariably the work of one criminal or one gang. This applies in particular to burglary where the area over which the gang operates usually embraces several Police stations. By tabulating and mapping all cases as they are reported the officer in charge of a district can usually get a clear indication as to where the offenders are most likely to be found and as to what action will be most likely to prevent further cases or bring about the detection of the offenders.

The working of such a system depends on co-operation between stations and districts, the interchange of information and details of cases and concerted action such as inter-station and inter-district patrolling. The need for such co-operation is repeatedly impressed on all ranks.

Part III.—Further Action necessary to deal with Crime.

VI. *Dealing with Youthful Offenders.*—It has been mentioned in previous reports that one of the greatest needs of the Colony is the treatment of youthful offenders on sound practical lines in order to prevent a youth becoming an habitual criminal. Ceylon, where the volume of crime is very heavy, offers an exceptional field for work such as this to be started.

At the end of 1924 there were no less than 9,322 re-convicted criminals in Ceylon and the fact that in 1915 there were 5,318 shows that this already considerable figure is yearly increasing. The record of these criminals shows that a very large proportion come from the towns, and their history almost invariably starts with petty thefts in the streets committed at the age of 15 to 21. A recent instance, one of many, may be mentioned. A youth of 17, first convicted in 1923 has since, in the space of 12 months, been convicted three times for theft. The punishment of 10 cuts on first conviction and 10 cuts for the second offence committed only two days later had had no effect. After serving one month's rigorous imprisonment for a third offence this youth is now again in jail serving two years' rigorous imprisonment for house-breaking, a class of crime confined almost entirely to the hardened and practised criminal.

The object of a sound Police and Prison system is to prevent, so far as possible, a person from becoming an habitual criminal. Nothing can be done with a hardened criminal; it is useless teaching him a trade, for on release from prison he will, from sheer force of habit, in almost every case return to his former state and live on the proceeds of crime. The fact that in 1923 the Borstal Institution in England claimed that 75 per cent. of boys and 85 per cent. of girls who had passed out of these institutions were not re-convicted proves that if juvenile offenders are taken in hand in the right way when they are still young it is not then too late to prevent them becoming habitual criminals.

The existing Reformatory at Maggona deals only with boys under 16 and there is evident need for an institution which will take charge of offenders aged from 16 to 21 and give them a chance of becoming good citizens.

Schemes for the establishment of a Borstal Institute and for the founding of an industrial colony under the supervision of the Salvation Army have been put forward. The provision of funds and the enactment of the necessary legislation are under consideration.

The movement undertaken by the Police in 1922 of taking an interest in homeless boys in the streets of towns by providing means of recreation, school books, and essential needs has had most encouraging results. The Pettah Street Boys' Club which was started in 1922 affords a striking example of what can be done by bringing these boys under the influence of healthy surroundings and interests. Out of a membership of 64, only one boy has given trouble. The remainder not only support themselves by honest work and attend schools or night classes, but every boy subscribes towards the expenses of the

club. Eight members have accounts in the Post Office Savings Bank; one boy who started saving in May, 1924, has already fifty-five rupees in the bank.

The committee consists of the boys themselves, and they have been encouraged to manage their own affairs and so acquire self-respect and a sense of responsibility.

A club on similar lines to the Pettah club was opened at Galle during the year with 45 members. Twelve of these boys had been convicted of offences before joining the club, but no member of the club has been convicted since.

In other towns and in other parts of Colombo, where the number of boys in the streets is not so great as in the case of the Pettah and Galle and the establishment of a club is not necessary, the Police have got into touch with such boys as there happen to be. Games and means of recreation are provided at the Police Station and assistance is given to enable them to attend school and get work.

At Colombo Police Stations, other than Pettah, 160 boys have been taken in hand; 23 boys at Kurunegala and 10 at Panadure.

Part IV.—Supervision of Aliens, Strangers, and Travellers.

VII. In addition to the ordinary work of the Police, certain extra duties, initiated shortly after the outbreak of War have been continued throughout 1924. Of these the most important are :—

- (1) The keeping of a record of all persons entering or leaving the Colony.
- (2) The special registration of foreigners and Alien Commercial Travellers and Missionaries arriving in the Colony by steamer or from India *viâ* Talaimannar.
- (3) The general surveillance of all aliens resident in the Colony.

Since the relaxation of the rules prohibiting the landing in Ceylon of *ex-enemy* aliens, the work of supervision and registration of aliens has greatly increased.

Situated as Ceylon is on the main route to the Far East and Australia and in close proximity to India, a very large number of persons pass through Colombo, and the Ceylon Police are constantly being requested by Police of other countries to mark down, arrest, or report on the movements of an undesirable or fugitive offender who is believed to be on his way to India. Australia, or the Far East. A complete list of all persons disembarking from or embarking on ships in the ports of Ceylon is kept, together with a record of all persons stopping

at hotels, boarding houses, and resthouses, so that an information required can be given at short notice. In this way the Criminal Investigation Department of Ceylon act as a clearing house and do a considerable amount of work for the Police of other countries.

During the year 176 destitute persons or undesirable aliens were prevented from entering the Island by the Police at Colombo Harbour and Talaimannar. Eighty-nine persons without health passes were prevented from entering the Island at Talaimannar.

Part V.—Motor Traffic.

VIII. The system of control of all motor vehicles by one registering authority (Inspector-General of Police) continues, and the examination of applicants and the issue of licences to drive motor vehicles is being carried out by the Police.

There are 9,029 motor vehicles registered in the Island as follows :—

Motor cars registered for private use	...	...	4,209
Motor cars registered for conveyance of passengers for hire	...	...	1,072
Motor buses and lorries registered for conveyance of passengers for hire	...	...	884
Lorries registered for conveyance of goods, private and hire	...	...	718
Motor cycles	...	...	2,146

The number of motor vehicles on the roads is rapidly increasing. In 1911 there were only 745 motor vehicles in the Island, and at the close of 1924 there were 9,029. During 1924 cars and motor cycles were being imported at the rate of 145 a month.

The number of motor buses on the roads appears to be doubling every year. In 1922 there were 217 buses, 459 in 1923 and 884 in 1924. These buses which are now plying for hire wherever they can find roads to carry them are much appreciated on routes not served by the Railway and on roads where a quicker and simpler journey can be made by bus than by train.

Inasmuch as the roads were not built to carry motor traffic the responsibilities and duties of the Police have been considerably added to.

The reckless driver is the offender who most endangers the roads, for he not only endangers the occupants of the car he is driving but all users of the road. The Police alone cannot deal with this class of offence. The co-operation of the public by reporting to the Police all cases of reckless driving which are noticed and the co-operation of the courts in severely dealing with all persons who are proved to have driven to the danger of the public is necessary. Hints for safe driving are printed in

every driving licence and there is no excuse for the driver who causes damage or injury by his negligence in ignoring these hints. The Magistrates in the Municipal and most Police Courts have undertaken to give consideration to busy members of the public, who take the trouble to go to court and give evidence in these cases, by hearing the case at a time convenient to the witness.

The improvement of roads where the nature of the thoroughfare is a danger to motor traffic is a matter which the Police in every district have been instructed to take up with the road authorities by bringing to their notice thoroughfares unsafe for motor traffic, dangerous corners, and places where the obstruction of view renders the road dangerous. Members of the public can help considerably by similarly reporting to the local authority or to the Police any place on the roads which they know from their experience is dangerous. During the year, it was arranged with the Public Works Department for danger signals to be erected at places on the roads which could not be rendered safe; for instance, a very steep hill, or hill with a sharp turn at the bottom, or a dangerous double bend. These danger signals are conspicuous and are fixed at a height from the ground which will catch the eye of a driver with the hood of the car up. There are six signs and each clearly indicates the actual nature of the danger of which warning is given.

The provision of pavements for foot passengers is necessary to render the road safe in towns. Wherever such pavements have been provided special action is taken by the Police to keep foot passengers to the pavements.

A "Safety First" Campaign Committee appointed by the Automobile Club of Ceylon have done excellent work towards ensuring the safety of the road. Reflecting mirrors have been erected at five dangerous corners. Arrangements have been made for the distribution among the vernacular schools of suitable hints to children and for 10,000 coloured posters for general use throughout the Island. Further, every member of the club has been supplied with forms and addressed envelopes for reporting to the authorities cases of rash or negligent driving.

There were 4,631 prosecutions under the Motor By-Laws. Of these, 488 were for reckless or careless driving. The number of fatal accidents caused by motor vehicles throughout the Island was 69.

In the Nuwara Eliya District there were no fatal accidents. This speaks well for the control of motor traffic in this district where the roads are hilly, narrow, and winding and where a large number of motor lorries are in use conveying estate produce.

Part VII.—Training.

X. Special attention has been given to the training of all ranks in the varied duties of Police work on practical and up-to-date lines. Wherever possible instruction takes the form of demonstration which leaves a permanent impression on the mind of the recruit. On satisfactorily completing his course of training at the Training School the recruit receives instruction in point and beat duty in the streets under supervision. On being posted to a station he is instructed in local conditions and the methods, character, and habits of dangerous criminals, who are pointed out to him.

It is generally admitted that in dealing with crime no stereotyped methods can be employed, and that to deal with the modern criminal a police officer of any rank must use his imagination, "Police Sense," and initiative. Accounts of new methods of preventing and detecting crime which have proved successful and details of cases in which ingenuity has been displayed by the criminal are published every week in the "Police Gazette," in which new regulations and by-laws are also printed. All ranks are instructed and questioned in the "Police Gazette" at regular weekly instruction class and when resting on parade. Thus progressive and continuous instruction throughout a man's service, which keeps him up to date in all matters affecting his work, is provided.

Another part of each man's training of equal if not greater importance, namely, instruction in his duty as a police officer and conduct towards the public is given the utmost attention, and for some years past a constructive policy has been followed in order to aim at and secure a high standard. From the date of joining the newly enlisted police officer receives advice and warnings in regard to the duties and responsibilities which lie before him. He at once learns that in cases involving dishonesty or malice on the part of a police officer the severest punishment is inflicted for the first offence and that a police officer who has proved himself to be dishonest cannot be trusted and is a danger to the public.

He receives the most definite orders in the matter of the necessity for keeping himself well under control however much he may be abused and insulted when doing his duty. This is obviously a lesson which every police officer has to learn, for the very nature of his duties, which require him to make arrests and search houses, renders him liable to abuse. When, in addition, there is a tendency in this country to commit assault in the heat of the moment, as the very large number of quite unpremeditated murders and crimes of violence indicate, it will be realized that the lesson is not one which can be taught in a day or in a year.

Part VIII.—Miscellaneous.

First Aid to the Injured.—The Ceylon Police Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade was increased from 132 members when the Corps has formed in 1912 to 937 in 1924. Every police station in the Island is equipped with a stretcher and first aid box and hamper containing all the necessary first aid materials. The police have also been placed in charge of two motor ambulances belonging to the Colombo Municipality which are available for use in the city of Colombo. A knowledge of first aid is particularly useful to police in criminal districts where so many cases of serious injuries from personal violence occur at places far distant from a hospital. In cases brought to police stations of assault and accident in which bones are fractured and punctured wounds caused, there can be no question but that the cleaning of the wound, stoppage of bleeding, or application of splints, before the long journey of anything up to 15 miles in a cart is undertaken, must cause great relief to the patient and prove of value in the subsequent treatment.

Special attention has been paid to instruction in diagnosing injuries and in improvising first aid materials from any article at hand at the place of accident.

In a country which is surrounded by sea, is liable to floods, and has many rivers, tanks, lakes, and wells, drowning cases are very frequent, and a police officer of any rank may at any time find himself faced with the necessity of trying to save the life of a person rescued from drowning, and the importance of a thorough knowledge of the method of rendering artificial respiration cannot be over-estimated. Schäfer's method of rendering artificial respiration has been selected as the simplest and easiest method of rendering artificial respiration, and every man in the Force is frequently practised in it.

As a result of the instruction given in first aid every man is now out to assist the injured in cases of accident and stabbing and to render artificial respiration to persons rescued from drowning, and to do so with effect. Medical officers are constantly reporting that life has been saved by the prompt and efficient first aid rendered at the scene, or in the police station, by the police.

Instruction in first aid has therefore not only had a practical but a moral effect in intimating to police of all ranks their duty towards their neighbour, and it has brought about good feeling between police and villagers. When a constable came to a village it was generally to arrest an offender, and a police officer was regarded as a common enemy. By attending to the injured and by saving life in cases of drowning and serious injury good relations between the police and the public are secured.

XIII. Pensioners' Corps and Boys' Brigade.—Institutions of the Force include a Pensioners' Corps which secures employment for men no longer physically fit for active police duty and a Boys' Brigade in which sons of police officers are trained from the age of 5 upwards.

The pensioners are given a uniform by Government, and the pay they receive in private employ is of great assistance to them. These men have a pension to lose if they commit an offence of dishonesty, and this fact and their long service and training in the Force make their service valuable to the private employer. There are 293 pensioners in the Corps.

The Boys' Brigade provides healthy exercise, recreation, and education for the sons of police officers and pensioners and educates and trains them to become useful men. At the age of 14 the boy continues attending parades and school and is employed for half the day as office messenger or similar duty for which he is paid from Rs. 7.50 a month to Rs. 15 at the age of 17. At the age of 18 he is eligible and fit for enlistment in the Force. Ninety-four men now serving in the Force started in the Boys' Brigade, 10 of these are now sergeants, in one case promotion to sergeant being earned within $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of enlistment, indicating that the early training in the Boys' Brigade is of direct value to a man as a police officer on joining the Force. There are 100 senior and 376 junior boys in the Brigade.

Apart from the value of these two institutions to the boys and pensioners is the value of their indirect influence on the sergeants and constables serving in the Force itself. By keeping a good record a sergeant or constable provides for his future with the certainty of pension and employment obtained through the Pensioners Corps. At the same time his sons have the advantage of serving and being educated in the Boys' Brigade. On the other hand, a man who misbehaves loses the pay he is drawing, a house, pension, the possibility of future employment as a pensioner, and the privilege of having his sons educated and trained. This is found to have a great effect in encouraging men in the Force to work to a high standard as regards their personal conduct and character.

There are many instances of men serving in the Force, their fathers serving in the Pensioners' Corps, and sons in the Boys' Brigade; three generations thus serving Government at the same time. It is of interest to note that of the 94 men serving in the Force who started in the Boys' Brigade, the grand-fathers of 16 were in the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, the grand-fathers of 21 were in the Force, the fathers of 86 were, or are, serving in the Force. This shows that service in the police has become a family tradition.

XIV. *Justices of the Peace.*—Justices of the Peace have continued to render good service, not only in being available in time of emergency, but in visiting police stations, attending drills, and in supervising musketry. The fact of a resident of standing being in a position to take charge of any station and direct action in the event of any disturbance, fire, serious accident, or any other calamity is of value, not only to the police, but also to the owners of property, shopkeepers, householders, and the public generally. In a large and scattered district it is not possible for the Government Agent, Police Magistrate, or Superintendent of Police to get to the scene in time to prevent trouble in the great majority of cases.

XV. *Health of the Force.*—The provision of mosquito curtains and issue of quinine at stations where malaria is prevalent has had, in every instance, a most beneficial effect on the health of the men of the stations concerned. At Talaimannar and certain stations in the North-Western Province and Kegalla District in particular, where previously the number of men reporting sick with malarial fever affected the efficiency of the Force, the issue of mosquito curtains has been a great boon.

The issue of woollen socks, commenced in 1923, was continued, and has to a considerable extent prevented boot cuts and sores, previously such a common reason for men reporting sick.

XVI. *Rules for a Police Savings Association* were drawn up and with the approval of Government, the scheme has been brought into operation. The main object of the proposed Savings Association is to provide a man with a sum of money on retirement to enable him to settle down comfortably or set up a business. This Savings Association is not intended to take the place of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund or the Compassionate Fund, which exist to benefit the dependents of a contributor, but is intended to supplement them and benefit the man himself during his lifetime. The scheme is being very well supported and a large proportion of all ranks have opened accounts from January, 1925.

XVII. *Pettah Barracks.*—The work on the building of barracks for the Pettah police which was discontinued in the year 1921 after the foundations were laid on account of the financial depression and the necessity for retrenchment was recommenced in the financial year 1923-24 when a sum of Rs. 100,000 was voted. A further sum of Rs. 275,000 was voted for the financial year commencing October 1, 1924, and the barracks will shortly be ready for occupation.

PRISONS.

There was a decrease of 740 in the total number of admissions of convicted prisoners of Ceylon during the year 1924, excluding Road Ordinance defaulters, of whom there were 170, as against 221 in 1923.

The figures are as follows :—

1923	...	...	...	...	9,927
1924	...	...	...	...	9,187

The number of prisoners sentenced to death was 63, as against 56 in 1923. There were 41 executions during the year, the same as in the previous year.

Of the 41 whose capital sentences were carried out, 31 were Sinhalese, 9 Tamils, and 1 Cochin.

Of the number executed, 2 had been sentenced in 1923, and of the number sentenced to death 1 was executed in 1925.

There were 7 escapes and 6 re-captures during the year.

The total number of deaths in prisons was 105, as against 102 in 1923, and the death-rate per 1,000 of the admissions during the year was 6.74, as against 6.01 in 1923 and 7.57 in 1922.

The number of punishments inflicted during the year for prison offences was 1,175, as against 895 in 1923 and 1,067 in 1922.

Prisoners are in all prisons employed upon works of public utility and remunerative industrial labour. At Welikada and Bogambra prisons various trades are taught, such as carpentry, blacksmith, and tinsmith work; boot-making, tailoring, the making of cane furniture, matting, coir brooms, rugs, mats, coal and tea leaf bags, ropes, strings, bamboo tats, laundry work, printing, bookbinding, and mason work.

During the year under review 2,370 articles of wooden furniture were turned out by prison labour for various Government Departments. For making up furniture for Government, the Forest Department supplied 13,081½ cubes of various timber in logs. Cutting, planning, &c., of timber was done by machinery.

The Government Printing Office continues to employ a daily average of 219 prisoners from Welikada prison. This prison also continues to wash all soiled linen from the Medical and Railway Departments, as well as Lunatic Asylum, 884,814 pieces being dealt with during the year.

2,797 articles of clothing and bedding were made up for the Colonial Storekeeper, and 32,095½ yards of cloth woven for prison use.

The prisoners at Mahara prison are exclusively employed in the quarries on account of Harbour Works and Public Works Departments. A daily average of 200 prisoners were employed in the Harbour Works quarry during the year as blacksmiths, carpenters, stone-dressers, platelayers, stone-breakers, on excavating, and other works in connection with the working of the quarry. The following quantity of metal has been dealt with—2-inch metal broken 1,205½ cubes, rubble 1 to 5 tons, turned out 75 tons, hand rubble 6,355 tons, stone sets made 8,800, pitching issued 15, cut-stones made 130½ lineal feet. A daily average of 40 prisoners has also been employed in cutting earth and laying a Railway trace to the Colombo Harbour Works new quarry.

For the Public Works Department a daily average of 209 prisoners were employed in the Public Works Department quarry as metal-breakers and turned out 4,611.25 cubes of 2-inch metal. The Public Works Department was also supplied with a total of 1,833 cubes of metal during the year from various prisons, namely, Kandy 959, Galle 735, Anuradhapura 25½, and Badulla 113½.

The Karayoor reclamation works at Jaffna continues to make good progress. The daily average number of prisoners employed on the work during the year was 75. The extent of land re-claimed was 3 roods 17.28 perches. Out of 64 acres to be re-claimed 61½ acres have now been completed.

At Anuradhapura six to twenty prisoners are daily employed on account of Forest Department in clearing jungle and planting teak and margosa trees, &c. Eight to twelve prisoners are daily employed in the rice mill, and forty to sixty prisoners are employed in paddy cultivating, clearing jungle, &c., at the Dry Zone Experimental Garden, Puliyankulam. Thirty to forty prisoners are daily employed on account of anti-malarial campaign in filling up pools of the town, weeding, clearing jungle, &c.

Out of about 10 acres of land situated behind Welikada prison, which was being planted with various vegetables, about 5 acres have been utilized for the construction of the new Convict Hospital. The amount credited to revenue by sale of the produce of the remaining 5 acres was Rs. 959.06 during the year.

The schools at Welikada, Kandy, and Mahara for the instruction of prisoners of the age of 23 years and under on admission to prison and who have a sentence of 6 months and over make satisfactory progress, the daily average attendance being 84.26 during the year.

DIAGRAM No 6. THE TOTAL POPULATION
- CEYLON -

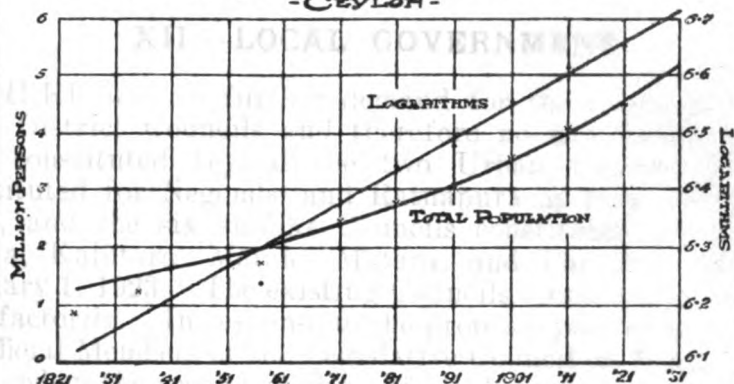


DIAGRAM No 7 BIRTH, DEATH, & MARRIAGE RATES
- CEYLON -

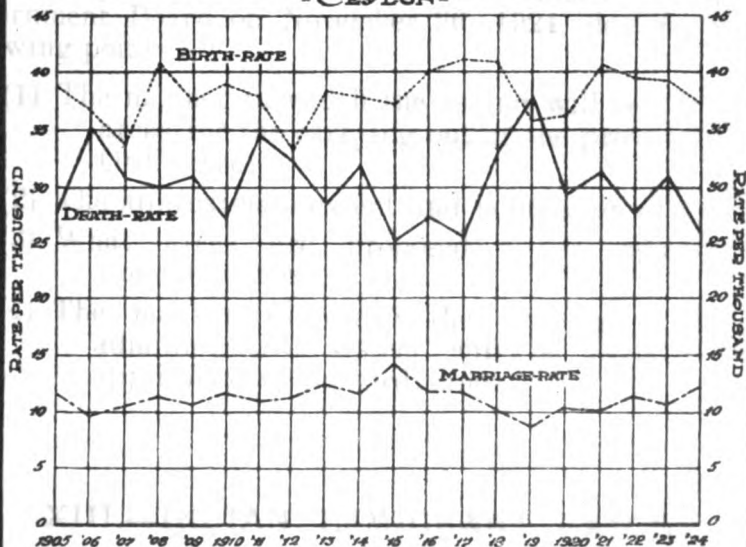
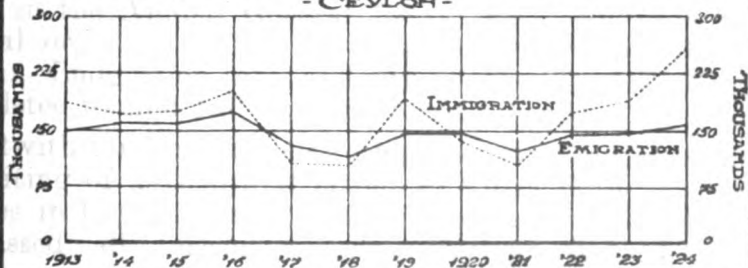


DIAGRAM No 8. ANNUAL IMMIGRATION & EMIGRATION
- CEYLON -



XII.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

THERE was no further demand for the establishment of District Councils and therefore no new Councils were constituted beyond the two Urban District Councils constituted for Negombo and Ratnapura as from January 1, 1922, and the six similar Councils constituted for Chilaw, Jaffna, Kalutara, Matale, Matara, and Panadure, as from January 1, 1923. The existing Councils continued to function satisfactorily. In response to the proposal put forward by the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council on November 15, 1923 (when the second reading of an Amending Ordinance to extend the operation of local government was taken up), a detailed report was submitted to Government by the Local Government Board on November 26, 1924, dealing with the following points :—

- (1) The manner in which the Island will be divided into areas for the carrying out of the provisions of this Ordinance;
 - (2) The approximate extent and population of each area;
 - (3) What areas are proposed to be placed under Commissioners;
 - (4) The manner in which the existing revenue and administrative system will be affected by the application of the Ordinance.
-

XIII.—INDIAN IMMIGRANT LABOUR.

A DESCRIPTION of the formation and organization of the Department of Indian Immigrant Labour was given in the Annual General Report for 1923. The departmental organization for carrying out the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act and the Ceylon Labour Ordinance completed its first full year of working in 1924.

Notwithstanding the new formalities which accompanied the recruiting of agricultural labour in South India for work on estates in Ceylon, the number of labourers recruited in 1924 surpassed all former records. During the year 153,989 labourers and their dependents were despatched to Ceylon.

The two main causes of this boom were the unfavourable seasonal prospects in South India and the appreciation of the improved conditions in Ceylon.

The failure of the north-east monsoon in South India at the end of 1923 resulted in considerable distress over many of the recruiting districts. Dry crops were severely affected and wet crops were very much below the average. In consequence many agricultural labourers failed to find work in their own villages and came over to Ceylon to earn their living.

At the same time there is no doubt that intending immigrants to Ceylon appreciate the improved conditions both with regard to recruiting and on the estates. All recruits now are transported free of cost to themselves. No advances made to them in India to enable them to emigrate are recoverable in Ceylon, and all the expenses of transport and subsistence during their journey are borne by the Immigration Fund.

The conditions on the estates in Ceylon have also been improved as will be seen below.

Of the 153,989 immigrants, 62,474 labourers and their families were persons returning to Ceylon after a holiday, or to take up new employment for a second period in the Island. This return of old immigrants alone more than balanced the exodus of Indian estate labourers from Ceylon to India, which totalled 56,118. A considerable number of recruits returned to the Island, after spending several years at their homes in India, either from want of work in their villages or attracted by the improved conditions here.

The Ceylon Labour Commission in South India carries out under the control of the Emigration Commissioner the supervision of all recruiting and the transport of all recruits as far as the Houses of Accommodation and Quarantine Station at Mandapam.

The resources of the Labour Commission and of the authorities in charge at Mandapam were fully tested by the large influx of recruits, but were in all respects equal to the strain, and the machinery worked smoothly under conditions of great pressure.

Recruiting was abnormal even in the earlier months of the year, and rose to a great height during the usual busy season in May, June, and July. During June there was a sudden strike on the South Indian Railway which caused considerable congestion in the traffic. As soon as this difficulty had been overcome disastrous floods in South India caused the Cauvery to overflow its bank. Bridges, roads, and railway embankments were swept away, and for some weeks, owing to lack of

communications, all recruiting north of Trichinopoly was brought practically to a standstill. By the time communications were restored to some degree of normality the height of the busy season was over and thereafter recruiting continued at a quieter rate.

CONDITIONS ON ESTATES IN CEYLON.

The rubber industry is still under the Rubber Restriction Scheme, and although work on rubber estates is popular there was naturally no great demand for fresh labour. Tea, on the other hand, enjoyed a year of great prosperity, and the large number of recruits was easily absorbed by the demand for labour on tea estates, which at the beginning of the year were short of labour.

The condition of estate labourers throughout the planting districts continues to show improvement. The great majority of estates have in hand programmes for the building of new and improved lines, improvements in the water supply, and the provision of adequate latrine accommodation. Many piece-workers, especially pluckers, on tea estates earned comparatively large wages. In general wages showed a fair level, and there were no serious labour troubles. There is, however, still a considerable amount of movement from estate to estate, though this was less noticeable at the end of the year than at the beginning. Health and sanitary conditions on the estates are under the supervision of Inspecting Medical Officers belonging to the Ceylon Medical Department and under the control of the Principal Civil Medical Officer who reports that there is a general improvement in housing and sanitary conditions and an increased attention paid to the labourers and their families by the estate management. A special campaign against anchylostomiasis is being carried out in several districts, and arrangements were also considered for the treating of this disease among recruits during their quarantine period at Mandapam.

The actual treatment, on a voluntary basis, at Mandapam was approved of by the Madras Government at the very end of the year, and was not started until early in 1925.

During the year further investigations into the wages and earnings of estate labourers were undertaken jointly by the Director of Statistics and the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon. The investigations were not, however, completed by the end of the year.

The Government of Ceylon has expressed to the Government of India its assent to the proposal that children under ten years of age should not be employed as labourers on estates.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The salaries and allowances of the Controller's staff in Ceylon are met out of the general revenue of the Colony, and the expenditure under this head during the financial year, October 1, 1923, to September 30, 1924, was Rs. 67,326.14. All the other expenses of the Department, including the transport and subsistence of recruits, recruitment allowances, overhead charges paid to the Labour Commission, &c., are paid out of the Immigration Fund, which is levied by means of acreage fees paid quarterly by estates planted in tea, rubber, cocoa, and cardamoms, and employing Indian immigrant labour.

The rate for the first three quarters of the financial year 1923-24 was fixed at Rs. 1.50 per acre for tea estates and 50 cents per acre on the others. During the fourth quarter, owing to the tremendous rush of recruits, it was deemed advisable to provide against all contingencies by doubling the rate.

The total revenue for the year was Rs. 3,756,901.48 (of which Rs. 3,614,330.14 was on account of acreage fees) and the expenditure Rs. 3,217,988.91, leaving a balance in reserve of Rs. 538,912.57.

J. A. MAYBIN,
Second Assistant Colonial Secretary.

INDEX.

	PAGE
Agriculture	39
Archæological	72
Assets and liabilities	4
Asylums	79
Births	90
Cacao, exports, &c.	43
Cardamoms	43
Ceylon Savings Bank	5
Citronella oil	44
Coconuts and coconut products	42
Colombo Flood Protection Scheme (North)	51
Colombo Flood Protection Scheme (South)	51
Colombo Museum	73
Indian immigrant labour	113
Co-operative societies	45
Criminal statistics	98
Currency	5
Customs revenue	22
Death duties	6
Deaths	91
Debt, public	5
Distribution of trade and foreign competition	8
Education	64
Emigration	113
Excise	56
Expenditure	4
Fibres	44
Financial	4
Fisheries	73
Foodstuffs	45
Forests	29
General condition of the Colony	1
Government Training College	67
Immigration and emigration	113
Industrial schools	68
Infective diseases and animals	46
Irrigation Department	50
Labour conditions on estates	114
Land Settlement Department	28
Legislation	94
Local Government	113
Mail services	58
Mail statistics	60
Mandapam Camp	114
Marriages	90
Medical institutions	79
Meteorology	37
Money and postal orders	61
Oil Installations Scheme, Colombo	24
Papain	45
Police	97
Population	89

	PAGE
Post Office Savings Bank	61
Postage rates	60
Post and telegraphs	58
Principal exports, notes on	18
Principal imports, notes on	12
Prison statistics	111
Public Works Department	48
Railway Department	54
Railway extensions	54
Revenue	4
Rubber, exports, &c.	41
Salt, manufacture, collection, and sale	34
Schools generally	64
Shipping	6, 21
Supervision of aliens, &c.	104
Survey Department	35
Tea, exports, &c.	39
Technical schools	69
Telegraph system	62
Telephone system	62
Trade and shipping	6
University College	70
Vernacular education	64
Vital statistics	89

42
787
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1350

GRENADA



Report for 1926

*(For Reports for 1924 and 1925 see Nos. 1263 and 1310,
respectively (Price 6d. each).)*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 6d. net

58-22-0-26

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I. Introduction :	
Geographical	3
Climate	3
Historical	4
II. General	4
Public Health and Statistics	6
III. Government Finance... ..	7
Banks	7
IV. Annual Progress of Trade	8
Imports	8
Exports	9
Agriculture	10
Land	12
Industries	12
V. Legislation	12
VI. Educational Progress	13
Primary	13
Secondary	13
VII. Communications—	
Roads	14
Posts	14
Telegraphs	14
Telephones	14
Shipping	15

GRENADA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926

I.—Introduction.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Situated in the extreme south of the Caribbean Sea, Grenada is the nearest British island to the mainland of South America with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago. It lies 90 miles north of Trinidad and between the parallels of $12^{\circ} 30'$ and $11^{\circ} 58'$ North latitude and $61^{\circ} 20'$ and $61^{\circ} 35'$ West longitude. The Island is about 21 miles in length and about 12 miles in its greatest breadth. Its area is about 120 square miles, but including Carriacou, an island to the north, the area of the Colony of Grenada is 133 square miles.

Grenada is mountainous and well watered by streams. Its coastline is rugged, especially on the western coast, and towards the south is deeply indented with bays. St. George's Harbour, landlocked and deep watered, is one of the most beautiful in the West Indies.

The mountain spurs, clothed with forests to their summits, intersect the Island into numerous picturesque valleys. There are two small lakes, formed in extinct craters, one, called the Grand Etang, being situated near the centre of the Island, 1,740 feet above sea-level, while the other, Lake Antoine, is near the sea on the eastern coast. A sanatorium is established near the former.

CLIMATE.

The climate can be classed as excellent, especially from December to May, when it is delightful. The trade winds are steadily prevalent during this period, but occasionally fail in the autumn months, which are somewhat damp and hot.

The range of temperature is small and tends to make the climate equable and healthy. The thermometer seldom reaches 90° in the shade or drops below 70° , and these occasions occur so rarely that they are specially recorded in meteorological notes of the year. The highest temperature in 1926 was 92° on 9th September, and the lowest 70° on several days. The mean of maximum temperatures was 85° and the mean of minimum 74° . The rainfall varies according to altitude. In the lowlands of the south the annual amount is as low as 30 inches. In the mountainous centre it approaches 140 inches. At St. George's, midway between the two, the rainfall in 1926 was 59.37 inches. Over the past thirty years the average at St. George's has been 72.62 inches.

HISTORICAL.

Grenada was discovered by Columbus on 15th August, 1498, but for more than 100 years after its discovery the Island was left in the undisturbed possession of the aboriginal inhabitants, who were of the Carib race. Early in the seventeenth century both English and French adventurers made efforts at occupation of the Island, and after being owned by French proprietors for some years it was annexed to France in 1674. In 1763 the Island was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris, but was recaptured by the French in 1779 and held by them for the next four years. In 1783, by the Treaty of Versailles, Grenada and the Grenadines were finally restored to Great Britain.

In 1795-96, influenced by the French Republic, a rebellion broke out, and the Lieutenant-Governor and 48 other British subjects were massacred by the rebels. The rising was suppressed in June, 1796, by Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and the ringleaders executed.

The later history of the Colony has been peaceful and uneventful, and Grenada has reached a high state of development.

II.—General.

For more than two years the prices of two important products—nutmegs and mace—have continued at exceptionally high rates, and although the price of the former declined slightly towards the end of the year the values, compared with pre-war figures, are still extremely remunerative to the growers. An upward trend in the prices of the other staple crop of the Island—cocoa—also occurred, with the result that a general wave of prosperity has extended throughout almost the entire community. Its signs are evident in an improved standard of living, and in expenditure on articles of better quality than usually purchased.

This tendency ought to benefit manufactures of British origin—and this has already been apparent in the case of motor-cars which, for the first time since motor transport was introduced into Grenada, are now being imported from Great Britain to an appreciable extent.

Whaling operations—as will be seen from the notes under “Industries”—were carried out on a smaller scale last year, but have now been discontinued, and it is uncertain whether the Company intends to resume the industry. The number of whales caught has not come up to the expectations formed when the station was erected, and some doubt appears to exist as to whether the whales are migrating or whether the species (*megaptera nodosa*) is becoming extinct.

Another promising industry—that of banana cultivation—has also received a blow by the closing down of the Swift Company towards the beginning of 1927. Efforts to maintain the cultivation and

to arrange for transport and marketing were taken by the Government, and there was a prospect of a resumption of the export of the fruit to New York, but unfortunately the latest outlook is far from encouraging.

A large scheme of improvement and extension of water supplies at a cost of about £14,000 was proceeded with, according to plans drawn up by Mr. H. F. Peet, M.I.C.E., who visited the Colony for the purpose in the early part of the year. The main work of improvement consists of enlargement of the filter beds, construction of additional reservoirs and sedimentation tanks, and introduction of ferric alumina treatment. Extensions of the water service in St. George's and the districts of Grand Anse, Mount Moritz, and Happy Hill were carried out during the year, and work of improvement has also been undertaken at Grenville. Sauteurs, and Gouyave.

Mr. Peet also drew up two schemes for the electric lighting of the town and district of St. George's, and it has been decided to proceed with a hydro-electric undertaking from power obtained from the Annandale River. Its introduction involves conversion of the telephone system in the electric light area from an earth to a metallic circuit, but as the present system can barely meet the requirements of the subscribers it has been decided to reconstruct the telephone system throughout the Island. These two schemes involve an expenditure of £40,000, and at the time of writing a loan for the purpose has been arranged for by the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

The question of closer association with Trinidad continues to engage attention, although expressions of public opinion on the subject are somewhat lacking, from a fear that the proposal will mean some loss of individuality and autonomy among the smaller islands. The present association of the Windward Islands under a Governor at Grenada, and of the Leeward Islands under a Governor at Antigua, are examples of the feasibility of the larger union. In these existing unions, however, a certain element of jealousy arises from the fact that the seat of the Government is placed in an island no more important than the others of the group, and this would disappear by establishing the headquarters at an island of the size, importance, and public activities of Trinidad. There would also be the ultimate possibility of the public men of the smaller Councils meeting there for the consideration of subjects of common West Indian interest, thus obviating the defect of so many divided opinions on such subjects.

His Excellency Sir Frederick Seton James, K.B.E., C.M.G., was absent in England on leave from 27th June to 30th October, the administration of the Government of the Windward Islands being undertaken from 15th July to 30th October by the Honourable Herbert Ferguson, C.B.E., the Colonial Secretary of Grenada.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND STATISTICS.

The new Public Health Ordinance, which was passed towards the end of 1925, came into operation on 1st March, 1926, and under its provisions the control of sanitation, which formerly had been undertaken by various Local Sanitary Authorities, passed to the control of a Central Authority consisting of the Chief Medical Officer as Chairman, two Medical Officers, and a representative from each of the six District Boards of the Colony. The practical measures in regard to sanitation are entrusted to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, with a staff of seven Sanitary Inspectors. A motor-lorry and adequate sanitary bins have been provided for St. George's, and handcarts and wheelbarrows in the other towns. The uniformity of procedure and the regular and systematic house to house inspections will, it is hoped, lead to greatly improved sanitary conditions.

The scheme for district visiting stations, to which reference was made in the last annual report, although not completed during the year, has now been established.

Financial provision has been made for a leper settlement, and steps are being taken for the selection of a suitable site. Lepers are not numerous, their number being under 20, and it is confidently expected that proper segregation will stamp out this disease within a generation.

Vital Statistics.—The estimated population at 31st December, 1926, was 71,621, the density being 538 per square mile.

There were 2,402 births and 1,460 deaths, the birth-rate being 33.53 and the death-rate 20.3 per thousand.

The death-rate is the highest recorded since 1917, when the rate was 20.6.

The percentage of deaths of children below five years of age to the total deaths was 50.8. In the year 1923 the percentage was 40.3, and in the following year 41.3.

The following table compares the infantile death-rate with that in other West Indian Colonies and England and Wales :—

Infantile death-rate per 100 births.

Country.	Year.	Under 1 year.	Under 5 years.
Grenada	1926	13.7	30.9
Grenada	1925	11.6	23.3
British Guiana	1925	15.5	20.9
Dominica	1925	13.5	23.4
Jamaica	1925	17.3	25.8
St. Lucia	1925	10.6	19.2
St. Vincent	1925	11.5	18.6
Trinidad	1925	13.4	20.1
England and Wales	1924	7.5	11.4

The following observations appear in the report on vital statistics for the year :—

“ The increased death-rate amongst infants has occurred principally in the parishes outside St. George's. In the latter, a Crèche was opened at the end of 1924, and, while the improvement in the infantile death-rate in St. George's as compared with the out-districts cannot with absolute certainty be attributed to the Baby Welfare Movement, there can be no doubt that this organisation has materially contributed to such a result. The District Visiting Stations that have this year been established by the Government will have a resident nurse in attendance specially trained in midwifery, and it is hoped that this scheme may lead to greatly improved conditions in the districts.”

The increased number of deaths among young children accounts to a large extent for the increased total death-rate. There was a larger death-rate from diarrhoea and enteritis—principally among children—the deaths numbering 400 as against 284 in 1925, and from syphilis, which increased from 26 to 66, 42 of the latter being from congenital syphilis of infants.

Much of the high death-rate amongst young children is attributable to improper feeding, and, as one of the measures for counter-acting this, the Government is considering a scheme for the distribution of pure milk at a cheap rate to the children of mothers in poor circumstances.

III.—Government Finance.

The revenue for the year again made a record, the amount being £148,447 as compared with £146,218 in 1925. The expenditure was £119,001, resulting in a surplus on the year of £29,446. With this addition, the excess of assets over liabilities at 31st December, 1926, amounted to £69,201.

A special Reserve Fund was created during the year, and, in accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State, the Fund will be augmented annually (a) by a vote of £1,000, (b) by transfer of half the surplus revenue in each year, (c) by the interest on the Invested Reserve Fund until the Fund reaches the sum of £50,000.

By the operation of these measures the Reserve Fund at the end of 1926 was £23,435, the remaining surplus assets being £45,766.

The public debt of the Colony amounts to £223,670, against which there are accumulated sinking funds amounting at 31st December, 1926, to £92,824, leaving a net indebtedness of £130,846.

BANKS.

Two Banks are established in the Colony, Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Overseas, and Colonial—formerly the Colonial Bank) and the Royal Bank of Canada, the former having also a branch at

Grenville. Savings bank business is conducted by both banks, the rate of interest on deposits being 3 per cent.

The note circulation of Barclay's Bank was £25,000, and that of the Royal Bank of Canada \$100,000, but the actual amount in circulation is stated to be about £30,000.

Silver is legal tender without limit. There is very little gold in the Colony, a few American gold coins alone being in circulation.

Savings Bank.

The Savings Bank conducted by the Government gives 4 per cent. interest on deposits, and with this favourable rate the business of the Bank continues to grow steadily.

The amount standing at the credit of depositors rose during the year from £32,103 to £36,356, the number of depositors at the same time increasing from 1,922 to 2,135. The investments on account of the Bank's funds were £32,139, and there was a profit of £209 on the year's working.

IV.—Annual Progress of Trade.

The value of imports for the calendar year 1926 was £386,483, and of exports £447,401, the total trade being £833,884. As compared with 1925, the imports were less in value by £45,324, while the value of exports increased by £13,318.

IMPORTS.

The principal articles imported were the following :—

	Value.		Increase or Decrease over 1925.	
	1925.	1926.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Flour	51,183	47,582	—	3,601
Cotton, piece-goods	46,413	39,794	—	6,619
Wood, &c., unmanufactured	15,907	22,739	6,832	—
Fish, dried, &c.	13,516	13,904	388	—
Rice	12,484	10,386	—	2,098
Motor-cars and parts	11,860	14,439	2,579	—
Bags and sacks, empty	10,509	6,256	—	4,253
Sugar, unrefined	10,481	9,251	—	1,230
Hardware	10,382	8,465	—	1,917
Machinery, industrial	9,443	3,307	—	6,136
Boots and Shoes	9,123	7,850	—	1,273
Oil, kerosene	8,107	7,007	—	1,100
Motor spirits	7,741	8,205	464	—
Soap, common	6,584	6,387	—	197
Cotton manufactures, other	6,374	5,437	—	937

The decreased importations are mainly due to the business houses having been well stocked in the preceding year. In the case of flour, although a decrease in value was recorded, the quantity imported was slightly more than in 1925.

Flour continues to be the principal article of importation and is obtained almost wholly from Canada, the returns showing that a very negligible quantity arrives from the United States of America. As will be seen from the following table, the transfer of trade in this article hitherto imported from the United States has been one of the principal effects of the Trade Agreement with Canada :—

Importations of Flour.

—				Canada.		United States.	
				lb.	£	lb.	£
1915	...	...	...	852,422	6,023	4,352,565	34,169
1919	...	...	...	2,406,806	34,290	2,114,257	29,766
1922	...	...	...	4,730,421	39,157	538,795	4,437
1926	...	...	...	5,293,833	47,485	11,172	97

The following table shows the direction of trade for the years 1925 and 1926 :—

—				1925.	Percentage of Total.	1926.	Percentage of Total.
				£		£	
United Kingdom	...	...	...	156,394	36·3	126,511	32·7
United States of America	...	...	...	80,859	18·8	80,158	20·8
Canada	...	...	...	90,641	20·9	93,336	24·2
Other British Possessions	...	...	...	64,618	14·9	55,202	14·2
Other foreign countries	...	...	...	39,295	9·1	31,276	8·1

EXPORTS.

The value of exports for the year amounted to £447,401, of which £437,751 represented the value of local products and £9,650 of re-exports.

The quantity and value of the principal local products exported were as follows :—

				£
Cocoa, raw	...	...	83,384 cwt.	223,290
Cotton, raw	...	...	3,159 „	14,040
Cotton Seed	...	...	7,762 „	2,646
Spices—Nutmegs	...	...	22,702 „	127,000
Mace	...	...	3,679 „	49,490
Whale Oil	...	...	108,055 gals.	14,258

The direction of the export trade was as follows :—

—	1925.	Percentage of Total.	1926.	Percentage of Total.
	£		£	
United Kingdom	171,768	39·6	165,901	37·1
United States of America	212,816	49·1	227,015	50·7
Canada	12,785	3·0	14,895	3·3
Other British Possessions	14,425	3·1	14,555	3·2
Other foreign countries	22,289	5·2	25,035	5·7

A greater quantity of the Colony's staple products continues to be shipped to the United States of America than to the United Kingdom, the figures being :—

	<i>United States of America.</i>	<i>United Kingdom.</i>
	cwt.	cwt.
Cocoa	42,536	34,426
Nutmegs	15,019	6,189
Mace	1,855	1,595

All the cotton exported, 3,159 cwt., went to the United Kingdom. Of the 108,055 gallons of whale oil exported 107,815 gallons were consigned to Holland and 240 gallons to Trinidad.

The total amount of export duty collected was £11,061. The amount collected in 1925 was £12,267. The products in respect of which these amounts were collected were :—

	1925.	1926.
	£	£
Cocoa	4,979	5,668
Cotton, raw	488	316
Cotton Seed	222	192
Nutmegs	5,440	3,626
Mace	961	901
Whale Oil	177	337
Whale Manure	—	21

The increase under cocoa was due partly to larger crops and partly to higher values.

Other articles of export included bananas and other fruit, lime juice, salt, coconuts, hides and skins, copra, groundnuts, wood, and timber.

AGRICULTURE.

Weather conditions are reported to have been very unfavourable for crops during the year 1926, but exports of cocoa and nutmegs showed a slight increase, nevertheless, over those of the previous year.

Cocoa.

The market prices for cocoa were profitable, and towards the end of the year a still further advance in price occurred. The exports amounted to 83,384 cwt. as compared with 73,216 cwt. in 1925, and the value increased from £197,231 to £223,290. In three parishes experimental plot work has been begun with a view to determining accurately the effects of manurial and cultural treatment of the cocoa tree in relation to its productiveness.

Spices.

The quantity of nutmegs exported was greater than in the previous year, but a slight decline in the very high prices reduced the value from £145,861 to £127,000. The production of mace was slightly less than in 1925, but the prices were on the average higher, and the value of the mace exported rose from £39,606 to £49,490.

Cotton.

Cotton cultivation, which is principally of the variety called "Marie Galante," and is confined to Carriacou, was normal, the crop being of average quantity and the prices slightly lower than in the preceding year. The Commissioner of Carriacou reports that there was no sign of boll weevil and that this was due to the success of the methods adopted for its suppression during the past three years.

Other Crops.

Considerable attention was given during the year to the development of banana cultivation, and by the end of the year shipments of 1,000 to 1,200 stems were being made to New York every three weeks by a steamer provided by the Swift Banana Company. Unfortunately, this Company ceased operations shortly afterwards, and the re-establishment of shipping and marketing facilities is a problem which is engaging the attention of the Government. The immediate difficulty is that until the production reaches the extent of about 20,000 stems weekly the industry does not warrant the employment of special steamers. If means could be found to carry on during the interval of development, the industry would be extremely profitable. There is a prospect also of grape fruit cultivation being developed, and an experimental plot of several acres is being laid out by the Agricultural Department. The corn (Indian maize) crop throughout the Colony is reported to have been short, and ground provisions, i.e., root crops, did not do so well as anticipated.

The actual amalgamation of the Agricultural Department with that of Trinidad was brought into effect during the year, and visits were paid by Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., the Director of Agriculture, Mr. Scheult, Agronomist, Mr. Joseph de Venteuil, Chemist,

and Mr. S. Stell, Mycologist, while a visit was also paid towards the end of the year by Captain Metivier, Veterinary Surgeon, in connection with an outbreak of disease among pigs, which was diagnosed as swine fever.

LAND.

There are no Crown lands for sale ; any lands remaining in the possession of the Crown are preserved as Forest or Rain Reserves.

Estates are occasionally bought by the Government for the purpose of land settlement, but this is confined to smallholders of whom, mainly owing to the schemes fostered by Government, there are over 14,000 in the Island.

INDUSTRIES.

The sugar industry can scarcely be said to exist in Grenada, much less sugar being made than is required for local consumption. This condition of things continues, although for some years past the Government has imposed a protective duty on imported sugar amounting to 1d. per lb., with a view to stimulating the local production. There is, apparently, a lack of suitable land available for profitable cultivation of canes.

Rum was manufactured at twelve distilleries, the output of which was 45,096 proof gallons, a quantity barely sufficient for the local demand.

An ice factory continues to work in St. George's with the aid of a Government subsidy.

Whaling Industry.

The operations of the Company established on Glover Island were continued, with three in place of two whale-catchers, but the catch numbered only 72 whales as compared with 102 in the previous year. The quantity of oil exported was 108,055 gallons, of the value of £14,258, and a small quantity of manure was exported, of the value of £418.

These results apparently have not been profitable, and operations in the present year have been entirely discontinued.

V.—Legislation.

Eighteen Ordinances were passed during the year, the principal of which were the following :—

No. 1.—Dangerous Drugs.—Introducing measures for dealing with the traffic in opium, &c.

No. 4.—Carriage of Goods by Sea.—Adopted to secure uniformity of procedure throughout the Empire.

No. 9.—Midwives.—Providing for the examination, registration, and control of midwives.

No. 11.—Primary Education Ordinance.—Revising the constitution of the Board of Education and of committees of management, and improving conditions affecting teachers.

No. 18.—Companies.—Which introduces modern legislation on the lines of the Imperial Act on the subject.

VI.—Educational Progress.

Dr. H. A. Baker, D.Sc., the Director of Education, was seconded to the post of Geologist to the Newfoundland Government for one year from the end of June, the duties of Director being taken over by Mr. H. H. Pilgrim in conjunction with his own duties as Inspector of Schools.

PRIMARY.

The number of primary schools is the same as last year, namely, 58, of which 10 were Government, 27 Roman Catholic, 14 Anglican, 5 Wesleyan, and 2 Presbyterian.

The total number of scholars on the roll at 31st December, 1926, was 11,731, and the average attendance was 7,066, representing 60.2 per cent. of the number on roll.

The total expenditure by the Government on primary education for the year was £8,287, and the amount by the Denominations was £306. Excluding administration and inspection, the cost to Government per pupil in average attendance at Government schools was £1 4s. 3d., and at grant-in-aid schools £1 2s. 7d.

SECONDARY.

The numbers at the Grenada Boys' School have still further increased, and numbered 108 at the last term, of whom 36 were scholarship holders from the lower division and combined primary schools.

In addition, there were 182 girls on the rolls of the Anglican Girls' High School and the St. Joseph's Convent School. These figures do not represent the total number of girls receiving secondary or specialised education in the Colony, as there are about 60 pupils in attendance at another private school, which has this year now received a Government grant.

Ten pupils from the Grenada Boys' School entered for the Cambridge Junior Local Examination, and nine passed, two Honours and two Distinctions being gained. Two pupils from this school sat for, but did not pass, the Cambridge School Certificate Examination.

The successful candidates at the Cambridge Junior Local Examination from the Anglican Girls' School numbered three out of six, and from the St. Joseph's Convent School two out of five, one of the pupils from the latter school gaining a Distinction.

The Matriculation Examination of London University has now been made the standard for winning the Grenada Scholarship, which is now awarded biennially.

At the June Examination this year, six candidates sat, and the Scholarship was awarded to Mr. M. A. Byer, who passed in the 1st Division. Only one of the other candidates passed the examination, in the 2nd Division.

VII.—Communications.

ROADS.

There is a good network of main roads and byways throughout the Island, the approximate mileage of the former being 114 and of the latter 305 miles. All the main roads and most of the byways are suitable for motor traffic. The gradients in some parts are steep, and the numerous curves and blind corners necessitate care in driving.

The Government motor mail and passenger service between St. George's and Sauteurs, via Grenville, was discontinued from August, when the service was taken over by a private contractor under a subsidy from the Government. On the western side of the Island there is now also a subsidized motor-bus mail and passenger service as well as a subsidized motor-boat service. This latter extends its journey to Carriacou once a week.

POSTS.

Postal business is transacted at the principal post office in St. George's, and at sub-offices at Gouyave, Victoria, Sauteurs, Grenville, and St. David's, and at Hillsborough, Carriacou. There are, in addition, several postal stations.

TELEGRAPHS.

There is a wireless station at St. George's, operated by the Pacific Cable Board, and a subsidiary wireless station was erected in Carriacou last year by the Government. Communication with other countries is also maintained by the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company by cable.

TELEPHONES.

There is a telephone service with five exchanges, worked very economically and at small charges. Owing to the great increase in the number of subscribers, a reconstruction of the entire system has been decided upon. There are (including Carriacou) 511 instruments and 150 switches in use; 183 miles of direct wire and 902 miles connecting subscribers and exchanges.

SHIPPING.

Direct communication with the United Kingdom was maintained by the Harrison Line, their larger steamers calling about once a month. This direct service is much appreciated; the duration of the voyage to London is about 14 days. The cargo steamers of this Line also call frequently.

The ordinary fortnightly service of the subsidized Canada-West Indies Steamship Line was continued for a part of the year, but in the latter half was restricted to a monthly call of passenger steamers with an intermediate call of freight steamers. Arrangements have now been made for an improved service under the management of the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine.

The Furness-Withy Line have a direct service from New York to Grenada at intervals of about ten days. The time occupied between New York and Grenada is seven days.

HERBERT FERGUSON,
Administrator.

GRENADA,
WINDWARD ISLANDS.
28th June, 1927.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased.

ASHANTI.
BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PRO-
TECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMEN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRI-
TORIES.
GRENADA.

HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES
UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
WEI-HAI-WEI.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
IRAQ.

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

BRITISH TOGOLAND.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

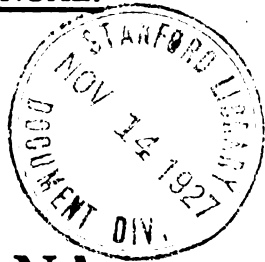
SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

2787
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1351.



BRITISH GUIANA.

Report for 1926.

*(For Reports for 1924 and 1925 see No. 1270 (Price 9d.)
and No. 1300 (Price 1s.), respectively.)*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 1s. 0d. Net.

58-7-0-26

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Geographical	3
Historical	3
Constitution	3
I. General	4
II. Vital Statistics, Public Health, and Climate—	
Vital Statistics	6
Public Health	7
Climate	8
III. Financial—	
Revenue	9
Expenditure	9
Assets and Liabilities	9
Public Debt	9
IV. Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry—	
Imports	10
Exports	10
Direction of Trade	11
V. Progress in the Investigation and Development of Natural Resources	11
Geology	12
Agriculture	12
Mining	14
Local Industries	14
Fisheries	14
Forestry	15
River Surveys	16
VI. Banks and Banking Facilities	16
VII. Education—	
Primary Education	17
Secondary Education	17
Industrial Education	19
VIII. Legislation	19
IX. Communications—	
Ocean Communications	21
Internal Communications	22
Railways	23
Steamers	24
X. Public Works	25
XI. Coastal Drainage, and Water Supply—	
Drainage	25
Water Supply	26
XII. Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Services	26
XIII. Government Publications	26

BRITISH GUIANA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Geographical.

THE Colony of British Guiana, which, it is interesting to note, is the only British possession on the South American Continent, lies between the first and ninth degrees of North latitude and the fifty-seventh and sixty-first degrees of West longitude, and has a seaboard of roughly 270 miles, extending from near the mouth of the Orinoco River on the west to the Corentyne River on the east. The Colony is bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south and south-west by Brazil, on the east by the Dutch colony of Surinam, and on the west by Venezuela, and is divided into the three counties of Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice. It has an area of approximately 90,000 square miles, of which only 198 square miles along the coast and up the rivers are cultivated.

Historical.

2. The Colony was first partially settled between 1616 and 1621 by the Dutch West India Company, who erected a fort and depot at Fort Kyk-over-al in the present county of Essequibo. In 1624 a settlement was founded on the Berbice River by Van Peere, a Flushing merchant, under licence from the Company. The first English attempt at settlement was made by Captain Leigh on the O'apock River (now French Guiana) in 1604. The effort, though followed up by Robert Harcourt in 1613 and 1627, failed to establish a permanent settlement. Lord Willoughby, famous in the early history of Barbados, also turned his attention to Guiana and founded a settlement in Surinam in 1663, which was captured by the Dutch in 1667 and ceded to them at the Peace of Breda in exchange for New York. The Dutch retained their hold on the three colonies with more or less firmness, now yielding to England, now to France or Portugal, till 1796, when during the war of the French Revolution they were captured by a British fleet sailing from Barbados. The territory was restored to the Dutch in 1802, but in the following year was retaken by Great Britain, and finally ceded to that Power in 1814.

Constitution.

3. The Constitution, as it existed up to 1891, may be summed up very briefly. It consisted of a Governor, a Court of Policy, and a Combined Court. The functions of an Executive and Legislative Council and House of Assembly were performed by the Governor

and Court of Policy, except as regards taxation and finance, which were, and still are, dealt with by the Combined Court, composed of the Governor and Members of the Court of Policy, together with six Financial Representatives. The Court of Policy makes all laws and ordinances, except the Annual Tax and Customs Duties Ordinances, which are passed by the Combined Court.

4. During 1891 an Act was passed, which came into force in 1892, effecting a considerable change in the Constitution. By this Act the administrative functions of the Court of Policy were transferred to an Executive Council, and the duties of the former became purely legislative.

5. Towards the end of the 18th century, when British Guiana still belonged to the Dutch, there were two sets of taxes and two separate treasuries or chests—these taxes were: the Capitation Tax, which, together with the import, produce, and tonnage dues, went into the Dutch West India Company's (now the King's) chest; and the Ongeld, an additional head tax, which belonged to the Colony chest. The abolition of slavery in 1834 rendered it necessary to alter the system of taxation to suit the new social conditions obtaining, and the King's taxes and the Colonial taxes were abolished and the ways and means necessary for carrying on the Government were raised by increasing the import duties. The two chests were merged into one—the revenue of the King's chest was surrendered to the Combined Court as a part of the ways and means in return for, and during the term of, a Civil List.

6. In 1842, by an Order of Her Majesty in Council, it was declared that during the continuation of the Civil List the King's chest should continue to be abolished. The Civil List has continued to be renewed from time to time as necessary.

British Guiana Report for 1926.

ERRATA.

Page 5, Para. 15.

For "Mr. J. Leggatt" read "Mr. J. Leggate"
And for "Mr. Leggatt" read "Mr. Leggate"

visited the Colony in January. The Delegation, which was headed by the Rt. Hon. Viscount Peel, G.B.E., First Commissioner of Works, arrived in the Colony on the 4th January, and after a stay of six days, during which the Delegation met members of the Government, of the Combined Court, and of representative bodies, and visited different parts of the Colony, left on the 10th.

9. The Colony suffered an almost irreparable loss by the death on the 8th February of Sir John Harrison, Director of Science and Agriculture and Government Analyst and Geologist.

10. British Guiana was represented at the West Indian Conference in May by Sir A. P. Sherlock, the Hon. J. Hampden King, C.B.E., Mr. Francis Dias (then a member of the Legislature), and Mr. A. R. F. Webber, F.R.

11. On the 15th June the Act of the Canadian Parliament approving the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of the 6th July, 1925, received the Royal Assent.

12. On the 16th of September the Chief Justice, Sir Charles Major, was seconded as Commissioner to carry out a fresh revision and codification of the laws of the Colony. After completing a portion of the work Sir Charles left early in October for England to complete his task. When this is finished he will retire from the Colonial Service on pension.

13. In October the Secretary of State for the Colonies appointed a Parliamentary Commission to visit British Guiana with a view to considering and reporting on the economic conditions of the Colony, the causes which have hitherto retarded and the measures which could be taken to promote development, and any facts which they may consider to have a bearing on the above matters. The Commission, which consisted of Mr. R. Roy Wilson, M.P. (Chairman), Mr. H. Snell, M.P., with Mr. R. R. Sedgwick of the Colonial Office as Secretary, arrived in the Colony in November and remained over a period of five weeks.*

14. The Hon. C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G., who succeeded Mr. R. Popham Lobb, C.M.G., as Colonial Secretary, arrived in British Guiana and assumed duty on the 1st December.

15. The Hon. C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G., was also appointed a member of the Colonization and Development Board

C.M.G., D.S.O., late Lieutenant-General, was appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies as Commissioner to inquire into the working of the British Guiana Civil Service, and arrived in the Colony in December.

* The Report of the Commission was published in April, 1927, as Cmd. 2841.

17. Work on the Georgetown Improvement Schemes was proceeded with during the year under report. The pipe laying of the sewers has been completed and the whole of the rising mains, with the exception of the small branch mains, have been tested. Out of a total of 24 pumping stations constructed, the electrical and pumping machinery has been installed in four stations and partly installed in three others. A total of 1,973 connections have been laid from the main sewers to property boundaries, and the work of drain laying to the foot of existing soil pipes, bath and sink wastes is proceeding. Up to date, a length of nearly 20 miles of connections have been completed.

18. The Colony suffered during the year from a disastrous drought which lasted from September, 1925, to the following May, and seriously affected all agricultural, mining, and forest industries, causing heavy financial loss. Relief measures to enable small agriculturists to carry on were found necessary and the Combined Court authorised a sum not exceeding £20,000 to be used in making advances through a Committee appointed for the purpose.

II.—Vital Statistics, Public Health, and Climate.

VITAL STATISTICS.

19. The birth and death rates appearing in this report have been calculated on the Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Colony at the 31st December, 1926, which was 306,844, or 155,486 males and 151,358 females.

20. 10,653 births—5,442 boys and 5,211 girls—were registered during the year. In 1925 the number was 10,197—5,276 boys and 4,921 girls.

21. The birth-rate was 34.7 per 1,000 of the population; that for 1925 was 33.5, and for 1924 32.4.

22. The numbers and birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of each of the several races representing the community were as follows:—

<i>Races.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Birth-rate per thousand.</i>
Europeans (other than Portuguese)	39	12.1
Europeans (Portuguese) ...	227	26.5
East Indians ...	4,858	38.3
Chinese ...	68	24.4
Aborigines ...	297	32.0
Negroes ...	3,798	31.2
Mixed races...	1,365	40.1

23. Of the births registered, 4,993, or 46.9 per cent., were legitimate, and 5,660, or 53.1 per cent., illegitimate.

24. The deaths registered were 7,837—4,274 males and 3,563 females. In the previous year the figures were 7,352—4,026 males and 3,326 females.

25. The death-rate was 25.5 per 1,000 of the population. In 1925 it was 24.2, and in 1924 25.6.

26. The death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of the various races was as follows :—

Races.

Europeans (other than Portuguese)	...	13.6	} 19.7
Europeans (Portuguese)	... ..	21.9	
East Indians	... ..	23.4	
Chinese	... ..	20.4	
Aborigines	... ..	45.4	
Negroes	... ..	27.8	
Mixed races	... ..	22.6	

27. *Infantile mortality.*—The number of children who died under one year of age was 1,696, or 159 per 1,000 births, for 1926, as compared with 1,582, or 155 per 1,000 births, in 1925.

28. The following table shows the proportion of deaths of the children under one year of age of each race to every 1,000 births of each such race for the year under review :—

Races.

Europeans (other than Portuguese)	...	51	} 113
Europeans (Portuguese)	... ..	123	
East Indians	... ..	132	
Chinese	... ..	59	
Aborigines	... ..	236	
Negroes	... ..	191	
Mixed races	... ..	163	

PUBLIC HEALTH.

29. The general health of the Colony during the year 1926 was not so satisfactory as in the year previous. The drought which commenced during the latter portion of 1925 and lasted till the end of May, 1926, resulted in a higher incidence of intestinal ailments, and following on the drought the heavy rains and other meteorological conditions favoured severe epidemics of malaria, especially in river and hinterland areas. These epidemics unfortunately reflected most severely on infants and children and resulted in an increase of the death-rate.

30. The most prevalent diseases were intestinal ailments, malaria, and helminthic diseases.

31. The total number of deaths registered as directly due to malaria was 1,234, as against 1,054 in 1925; the death-rate being 4 per 1,000, as against 3.5 in 1925.

17. Work on the Georgetown Improvement Schemes was proceeded with during the year under report. The pipe laying of the sewers has been completed and the whole of the rising mains, with the exception of the small branch mains, have been tested. Out of a total of 24 pumping stations constructed, the electrical and pumping machinery has been installed in four stations and partly installed in three others. A total of 1,973 connections have been laid from the main sewers to property boundaries, and the work of drain laying to the foot of existing soil pipes, bath and sink wastes is proceeding. Up to date, a length of nearly 20 miles of connections have been completed.

18. The Colony suffered during the year from a disastrous drought which lasted from September, 1925, to the following May, and seriously affected all agricultural, mining, and forest industries, causing heavy financial loss. Relief measures to enable small agriculturists to carry on were found necessary and the Combined Court authorised a sum not exceeding £20,000 to be used in making advances through a Committee appointed for the purpose.

II.—Vital Statistics, Public Health, and Climate.

VITAL STATISTICS.

19. The birth and death rates appearing in this report have been calculated on the Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Colony at the 31st December, 1926, which was 306,844, or 155,486 males and 151,358 females.

20. 10,653 births—5,442 boys and 5,211 girls—were registered during the year. In 1925 the number was 10,197—5,276 boys and 4,921 girls.

21. The birth-rate was 34.7 per 1,000 of the population; that for 1925 was 33.5, and for 1924 32.4.

22. The numbers and birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of each of the several races representing the community were as follows:—

<i>Races.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Birth-rate per thousand.</i>
Europeans (other than Portuguese)	39	12.1
Europeans (Portuguese) ...	227	26.5
East Indians ...	4,858	38.3
Chinese ...	68	24.4
Aborigines ...	297	32.0
Negroes ...	3,798	31.2
Mixed races...	1,365	40.1

23. Of the births registered, 4,993, or 46.9 per cent., were legitimate, and 5,660, or 53.1 per cent., illegitimate.

24. The deaths registered were 7,837—4,274 males and 3,563 females. In the previous year the figures were 7,352—4,026 males and 3,326 females.

25. The death-rate was 25.5 per 1,000 of the population. In 1925 it was 24.2, and in 1924 25.6.

26. The death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of the various races was as follows :—

Races.

Europeans (other than Portuguese)	...	13.6	} 19.7
Europeans (Portuguese)	...	21.9	
East Indians	...	23.4	
Chinese	...	20.4	
Aborigines	...	45.4	
Negroes	...	27.8	
Mixed races	...	22.6	

27. *Infantile mortality.*—The number of children who died under one year of age was 1,696, or 159 per 1,000 births, for 1926, as compared with 1,582, or 155 per 1,000 births, in 1925.

28. The following table shows the proportion of deaths of the children under one year of age of each race to every 1,000 births of each such race for the year under review :—

Races.

Europeans (other than Portuguese)	...	51	} 113
Europeans (Portuguese)	...	123	
East Indians	...	132	
Chinese	...	59	
Aborigines	...	236	
Negroes	...	191	
Mixed races	...	163	

PUBLIC HEALTH.

29. The general health of the Colony during the year 1926 was not so satisfactory as in the year previous. The drought which commenced during the latter portion of 1925 and lasted till the end of May, 1926, resulted in a higher incidence of intestinal ailments, and following on the drought the heavy rains and other meteorological conditions favoured severe epidemics of malaria, especially in river and hinterland areas. These epidemics unfortunately reflected most severely on infants and children and resulted in an increase of the death-rate.

30. The most prevalent diseases were intestinal ailments, malaria, and helminthic diseases.

31. The total number of deaths registered as directly due to malaria was 1,234, as against 1,054 in 1925; the death-rate being 4 per 1,000, as against 3.5 in 1925.

17. Work on the Georgetown Improvement Schemes was proceeded with during the year under report. The pipe laying of the sewers has been completed and the whole of the rising mains, with the exception of the small branch mains, have been tested. Out of a total of 24 pumping stations constructed, the electrical and pumping machinery has been installed in four stations and partly installed in three others. A total of 1,973 connections have been laid from the main sewers to property boundaries, and the work of drain laying to the foot of existing soil pipes, bath and sink wastes is proceeding. Up to date, a length of nearly 20 miles of connections have been completed.

18. The Colony suffered during the year from a disastrous drought which lasted from September, 1925, to the following May, and seriously affected all agricultural, mining, and forest industries, causing heavy financial loss. Relief measures to enable small agriculturists to carry on were found necessary and the Combined Court authorised a sum not exceeding £20,000 to be used in making advances through a Committee appointed for the purpose.

II.—Vital Statistics, Public Health, and Climate.

VITAL STATISTICS.

19. The birth and death rates appearing in this report have been calculated on the Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Colony at the 31st December, 1926, which was 306,844, or 155,486 males and 151,358 females.

20. 10,653 births—5,442 boys and 5,211 girls—were registered during the year. In 1925 the number was 10,197—5,276 boys and 4,921 girls.

21. The birth-rate was 34.7 per 1,000 of the population; that for 1925 was 33.5, and for 1924 32.4.

22. The numbers and birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of each of the several races representing the community were as follows:—

<i>Races.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Birth-rate per thousand.</i>
Europeans (other than Portuguese)	39	12.1
Europeans (Portuguese) ...	227	26.5
East Indians ...	4,858	38.3
Chinese ...	68	24.4
Aborigines ...	297	32.0
Negroes ...	3,798	31.2
Mixed races...	1,365	40.1

23. Of the births registered, 4,993, or 46.9 per cent., were legitimate, and 5,660, or 53.1 per cent., illegitimate.

24. The deaths registered were 7,837—4,274 males and 3,563 females. In the previous year the figures were 7,352—4,026 males and 3,326 females.

25. The death-rate was 25.5 per 1,000 of the population. In 1925 it was 24.2, and in 1924 25.6.

26. The death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of the various races was as follows :—

Races.

Europeans (other than Portuguese)	...	13.6	} 19.7
Europeans (Portuguese)	...	21.9	
East Indians	...	23.4	
Chinese	...	20.4	
Aborigines	...	45.4	
Negroes	...	27.8	
Mixed races	...	22.6	

27. *Infantile mortality.*—The number of children who died under one year of age was 1,696, or 159 per 1,000 births, for 1926, as compared with 1,582, or 155 per 1,000 births, in 1925.

28. The following table shows the proportion of deaths of the children under one year of age of each race to every 1,000 births of each such race for the year under review :—

Races.

Europeans (other than Portuguese)	...	51	} 113
Europeans (Portuguese)	...	123	
East Indians	...	132	
Chinese	...	59	
Aborigines	...	236	
Negroes	...	191	
Mixed races	...	163	

PUBLIC HEALTH.

29. The general health of the Colony during the year 1926 was not so satisfactory as in the year previous. The drought which commenced during the latter portion of 1925 and lasted till the end of May, 1926, resulted in a higher incidence of intestinal ailments, and following on the drought the heavy rains and other meteorological conditions favoured severe epidemics of malaria, especially in river and hinterland areas. These epidemics unfortunately reflected most severely on infants and children and resulted in an increase of the death-rate.

30. The most prevalent diseases were intestinal ailments, malaria, and helminthic diseases.

31. The total number of deaths registered as directly due to malaria was 1,234, as against 1,054 in 1925; the death-rate being 4 per 1,000, as against 3.5 in 1925.

32. There was a slight increase in the number of notified cases of enteric fever; 297 being notified in 1926 as against 234 in 1925.

33. The number of cases of tuberculosis notified in 1926 was 319, as against 425 in 1925; the number of deaths being 326 and 349 respectively.

34. No cases of severe epidemic disease such as smallpox occurred during the year, but 119 cases of chicken-pox and 35 of diphtheria were notified.

35. Generally speaking, the health of the urban and the rural populations on the coastal belt has been good except, as previously mentioned, for the incidence of intestinal ailments due to impure water supply occasioned by the drought.

CLIMATE.

36. The climate is a naturally healthy one for the tropics. In the coastal region there are two wet and two dry seasons in the year. The long wet season usually commences about the middle of April and lasts until the middle of August. This is followed by the long dry season, which extends to the middle of November. From the middle of November to the end of January there is a short wet season, while a short dry season follows from the beginning of February to the middle of April. In the forest region of the interior the usual contrast between the wet and dry seasons is less marked than on the coast. In the savannah region in the far interior the rainfall is less than that registered in either of the other two. The mean temperature in the shade ranges in the coastal regions from 79° F. to 82° F., the mean maximum registering from 83° F. to 87° F., and the mean minimum from 74.5° F. to 76.5° F. Fresh sea-breezes blow steadily almost without intermission during the daytime for the greater part of the year. During the months of January, February, and March they continue both day and night, and make life pleasant for the European. The general direction of the wind is north-east, east-north-east, or east. Occasionally, however, during the wet months of the year, a land-breeze is experienced from the south-east, south, or south-west, and with this wind the heaviest falls of rain occur. The wind varies from "gentle" to "fresh" and gales are exceedingly rare. During 1926 the mean shade temperature as recorded at the Botanic Gardens, Georgetown, was 81.3° F. or 1.0° F. higher than that of the previous year and 2.9° F. above that at the Penal Settlement, Mazaruni River. The absolute maximum was 90.0° F. and the absolute minimum 69.0° F. As already mentioned, during the year the Colony suffered from an abnormal and unprecedented drought. The total rainfall from January to April, 1926, inclusive, was 3.82 inches, as compared with an average of 25.84 inches for the same months over the period 1880-1925.

The rainfall in 1926 for the coastlands was 80.32 inches, as compared with 75.00 inches at Mazaruni and 90.75 inches at stations situated more than 15 miles from the coast.

III.—Financial.

REVENUE.

37. The revenue of the Colony for the year 1926 amounted to £1,054,127, falling short of the estimate by £104,220 and of the revenue for the preceding financial year by £41,447.

EXPENDITURE.

38. The total expenditure for the year amounted to £1,173,491, being £51,743 less than the estimate and £47,098 more than the expenditure for the previous year.

39. The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as under :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i> £	<i>Expenditure.</i> £
1922	905,254	1,097,784
1923	1,114,704	1,081,549
1924	1,056,238	1,065,457
1925	1,095,574	1,126,394
1926	1,054,127	1,173,491

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

40. The Balance Sheet of the Colony on the 31st December, 1925, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £15,816 and that of the 31st December, 1926, a deficit of £103,548. The estimate of expenditure for 1926, together with the supplementary estimates, amounted to £1,225,234, exceeding the revenue estimate of £1,158,347 by £66,887. The actual expenditure incurred during the year exceeded the actual revenue received by £119,364, the financial transactions of the Colony for 1926 showing therefore a deficit of £119,364. The totals of assets and liabilities at the end of the year 1926 were £1,561,185 and £1,664,733, respectively.

PUBLIC DEBT.

41. The public debt at 31st December, 1925, amounted to £2,681,915. During the year, a sum of £26,031 was raised locally, while £6,820 was redeemed, resulting in a total loan indebtedness at 31st December, 1926, of £2,701,126. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £427,049. A sum of £977,313 advanced by the Crown Agents pending the raising of a loan to finance the Georgetown improvements and coastal drainage and irrigation schemes now in progress is not included in the above liability.

32. There was a slight increase in the number of notified cases of enteric fever; 297 being notified in 1926 as against 234 in 1925.

33. The number of cases of tuberculosis notified in 1926 was 319, as against 425 in 1925; the number of deaths being 326 and 349 respectively.

34. No cases of severe epidemic disease such as smallpox occurred during the year, but 119 cases of chicken-pox and 35 of diphtheria were notified.

35. Generally speaking, the health of the urban and the rural populations on the coastal belt has been good except, as previously mentioned, for the incidence of intestinal ailments due to impure water supply occasioned by the drought.

CLIMATE.

36. The climate is a naturally healthy one for the tropics. In the coastal region there are two wet and two dry seasons in the year. The long wet season usually commences about the middle of April and lasts until the middle of August. This is followed by the long dry season, which extends to the middle of November. From the middle of November to the end of January there is a short wet season, while a short dry season follows from the beginning of February to the middle of April. In the forest region of the interior the usual contrast between the wet and dry seasons is less marked than on the coast. In the savannah region in the far interior the rainfall is less than that registered in either of the other two. The mean temperature in the shade ranges in the coastal regions from 79° F. to 82° F., the mean maximum registering from 83° F. to 87° F., and the mean minimum from 74.5° F. to 76.5° F. Fresh sea-breezes blow steadily almost without intermission during the daytime for the greater part of the year. During the months of January, February, and March they continue both day and night, and make life pleasant for the European. The general direction of the wind is north-east, east-north-east, or east. Occasionally, however, during the wet months of the year, a land-breeze is experienced from the south-east, south, or south-west, and with this wind the heaviest falls of rain occur. The wind varies from "gentle" to "fresh" and gales are exceedingly rare. During 1926 the mean shade temperature as recorded at the Botanic Gardens, Georgetown, was 81.3° F. or 1.0° F. higher than that of the previous year and 2.9° F. above that at the Penal Settlement, Mazaruni River. The absolute maximum was 90.0° F. and the absolute minimum 69.0° F. As already mentioned, during the year the Colony suffered from an abnormal and unprecedented drought. The total rainfall from January to April, 1926, inclusive, was 3.82 inches, as compared with an average of 25.84 inches for the same months over the period 1880-1925.

The rainfall in 1926 for the coastlands was 80.32 inches, as compared with 75.00 inches at Mazaruni and 90.75 inches at stations situated more than 15 miles from the coast.

III.—Financial.

REVENUE.

37. The revenue of the Colony for the year 1926 amounted to £1,054,127, falling short of the estimate by £104,220 and of the revenue for the preceding financial year by £41,447.

EXPENDITURE.

38. The total expenditure for the year amounted to £1,173,491, being £51,743 less than the estimate and £47,098 more than the expenditure for the previous year.

39. The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as under :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i> £	<i>Expenditure.</i> £
1922	905,254	1,097,784
1923	1,114,704	1,081,549
1924	1,056,238	1,065,457
1925	1,095,574	1,126,394
1926	1,054,127	1,173,491

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

40. The Balance Sheet of the Colony on the 31st December, 1925, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £15,816 and that of the 31st December, 1926, a deficit of £103,548. The estimate of expenditure for 1926, together with the supplementary estimates, amounted to £1,225,234, exceeding the revenue estimate of £1,158,347 by £66,887. The actual expenditure incurred during the year exceeded the actual revenue received by £119,364, the financial transactions of the Colony for 1926 showing therefore a deficit of £119,364. The totals of assets and liabilities at the end of the year 1926 were £1,561,185 and £1,664,733, respectively.

PUBLIC DEBT.

41. The public debt at 31st December, 1925, amounted to £2,681,915. During the year, a sum of £26,031 was raised locally, while £6,820 was redeemed, resulting in a total loan indebtedness at 31st December, 1926, of £2,701,126. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £427,049. A sum of £977,313 advanced by the Crown Agents pending the raising of a loan to finance the Georgetown improvements and coastal drainage and irrigation schemes now in progress is not included in the above liability.

IV.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry.

IMPORTS.

42. The total value of imports for the year 1926 (not including transit trade) amounted to £2,598,927, being £309,507 less than the aggregate value of the imports of 1925.

43. The goods imported may be classified as follows :—

	1925 £	1926 £
1. Food, drink, and tobacco ...	1,057,216	1,055,572
2. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	237,192	198,016
3. Articles wholly or mainly manu- factured	1,602,903	1,338,009
4. Miscellaneous and unclassified	6,694	3,764
5. Bullion and specie	4,429	3,566

44. The value of the imports (not including transit trade) for the past five years averaged £2,642,611 per annum.

EXPORTS.

45. The total value of the exports for the year ended 31st December, 1926, was £2,734,105. This amount includes British and foreign goods, valued at £182,228, re-exported during the year. The value of the export trade was less than the previous year's transactions to the value of £396,601, or a decrease of 12.6 per cent.

46. The table below shows the value of the exports (excluding transit trade) under the five classes into which they naturally fall :—

	1925 £	1926 £
1. Food, drink, and tobacco ...	1,709,944	1,467,709
2. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	1,214,625	1,067,122
3. Articles wholly or mainly manu- factured	176,823	177,320
4. Miscellaneous and unclassified	1,821	923
5. Bullion and specie	27,493	21,031

47. There was a decrease of £153,225 in the value of sugar exported in 1926. The quantity was less than that exported in 1925 by 13,069 tons, the figures for 1926 and 1925 being 84,659 tons, valued at £1,260,470, and 97,728 tons, valued at £1,413,696, respectively.

48. The quantity of rum shipped during the year was less than the exports of 1925 by 358,481 proof gallons, and the value less by £34,029. The exports for 1926 were 789,643 proof gallons,

valued at £83,098, as against 1,148,124 proof gallons, valued at £117,127, exported in 1925. 492,133 proof gallons of the quantity exported in 1926 went to the United Kingdom.

49. The value of colonial produce exported in the last five years averaged £3,023,466 per annum.

50. Sugar, rum, molascuit, molasses, rice, charcoal, copra, coffee, hides, balata gums, gold, diamonds, bauxite, timber, essential oil of limes, coconuts, and coconut oil are the principal exports of the Colony.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

51. The United Kingdom takes first place with 41.6 per cent. of the aggregate trade of the Colony, Canada is second with 28.7 per cent., and the United States occupies a third place with 11.2 per cent. This distribution of trade is different from the distribution which prevailed immediately prior to the War. In 1914 the Home Country had 57.40 per cent. of the Colony's trade, as against 41.6 in 1926; Canada in the former year secured 20.52 per cent., as against 28.7 per cent. in the latter year; whilst the United States' aggregate trade with the Colony rose from 10.92 per cent. in 1914 to 11.2 per cent. in 1926.

52. During the Great War a large proportion of trade which had formerly been done by the United Kingdom was diverted to the United States, but since the cessation of hostilities trade conditions with the former country have exhibited a tendency towards gradual improvement, and there is every possibility of greater expansion, provided that the class of goods for which Britain has always been noted can be supplied on the conditions demanded by merchants, as the quality of British-made goods is so well known as to place them in the forefront of the world's manufactures. Therefore, with increased production it is reasonable to expect that there will be great improvement in British trade in the near future.

53. The aggregate trade done with Canada in 1926 was, as already stated, greater than in the previous year. Of the total quantity of sugar exported during the year, 59,098 tons went to Canada and the greater part of the balance to the United Kingdom.

V.—Progress in the Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

54. Good progress was made during the year in the investigation of natural resources. The primary traverse from the Mazaruni to the Puruni rivers for the Topographical Survey having been completed, the Survey parties were transferred to the Bartica-Tiboku-Potaro triangle and to the Essequibo River, where forestal examinations and hydrographic surveys are being carried out. For a distance of 88 miles an accurate traverse has been carried along the Bartica-Kaburi trail and Roth's trail to a point opposite to the

mouth of the Puruni River, the primary traverse and levels are being carried from the mouth of the Puruni River for a distance of 45 miles along the main river to Tiboku. A careful survey is being made of the Tiboku Fall and of the section of the river from Turesi Fall to Tiboku Fall. Soundings and correct meter readings are also being taken to determine whether this section of the river is navigable by power-driven vessels at all seasons.

GEOLOGY.

55. The Economic Geologist and Mineralogist has submitted to the Government his report on the preliminary geological and mineralogical reconnaissance survey of the Mazaruni and Puruni diamond fields, and this has now been published.* The document, which is a valuable one, draws attention to many defects in the present methods of exploitation and offers valuable information as to how these may be remedied. A report on a preliminary examination of the Potaro-Ireng-Kuribrong area has also been received and will, it is hoped, be published at an early date.

AGRICULTURE.

56. The sugar crop of the Colony for 1926 was 98,152 tons, as compared with 99,548 tons, the average yield of the preceding ten years. The area reaped was 55,728 acres, the average yield of sugar being 1.76 tons per acre.

57. The returns submitted by sugar plantations in the Colony show that in 1926 58,589 acres were under sugar-cane. Of this area, not less than 72.5 per cent. was planted with D 625 variety of cane, whilst about 15.5 per cent. was planted with this cane mixed with Bourbon and seedling varieties. There were only about 257 acres planted with Bourbon unmixed with other canes.

58. The area devoted to the cultivation of rice was 46,465 acres, of which 16,647 acres yielded both spring and autumn crops. The total yield of padi was 49,899 tons, equivalent to about 29,939 tons of cleaned rice. Most of the rice produced was of good quality. 2,914 tons of rice were exported during the year 1926. Very large areas of the front lands of the Colony pre-eminently suited for the cultivation of rice are not so occupied.

59. Coconuts are planted on 26,502 acres of land. The exports of nuts were 816,000. In addition, 34,111 cwts. of copra and 18,778 gallons of coconut oil were exported, equivalent to 16,476,630 nuts, the total export of coconuts and their products being equal to 17,292,500 nuts. A great number of the nuts gathered, returned by the growers at 19,619,000 nuts, were used locally for the manufacture of coconut oil, or directly as food. There is a very wide area of lighter soils on the front coastlands suitable for planting with

* See p. 27.

coconuts ; on parts only of this area is coconut planting being carried on. The extension of such planting, unfortunately, has ceased during the recent years.

60. The acreage returned as being under coffee was 5,300 acres. The export of coffee amounted to 6,904 cwts., as compared with 5,964 cwts. in 1925.

61. The area returned as being planted with cocoa was 1,300 acres. All the cocoa produced is used locally, either in the preparation of chocolate or of confectionery. There are extensive belts of land in British Guiana well suited for cocoa-growing and it is to be regretted that this cultivation does not extend.

62. The area devoted to the cultivation of limes during the year was 490 acres.

63. In the year under review 4,982 gallons of concentrated lime-juice and 337 gallons of essential oil of limes were exported.

64. The export of rubber was 307 cwts., as compared with 96 cwts. in 1925. Given a fair market price this industry would increase considerably.

65. The acreage under provision crops was 14,509 acres. A great increase in the planting of groundnuts has recently taken place and this industry should prove an important one, especially as a start has been made to cultivate on plantation lines.

66. During recent years the increase in the agricultural production of British Guiana, which had been well marked from 1900 to 1918, ceased, and a notable decrease ensued from a total area under cultivation of, in round figures, 194,000 acres in 1918 to one of 143,000 acres in 1926, showing, however, an increase over 1925 of 8,200 acres. The great decrease has been due largely to unpropitious seasons, accentuated by floodings of cultivated lands. The floods in the past were not entirely due to exceptionally heavy rain-falls but to want of natural drainage, which had been interrupted in many parts of the front lands by the construction of permanent sea defences. These unsatisfactory conditions have been greatly improved by the installation of pumping stations. Further reasons for the decrease are the low and unremunerative prices on the local markets of almost all agricultural produce and the scarcity of efficient labour, due largely to the cessation of East Indian immigration, and also to the migration of many of the more energetic and venturesome of the native agriculturists and peasant proprietors to the more fascinating pursuit of searching for diamonds in the interior of the Colony.

67. The number of cattle in the Colony, including 60,250 on the hinterland savannahs, was 138,092 in 1926 ; horses were returned at 2,191, sheep at 28,637, goats at 15,504, swine at 16,426, donkeys at 8,250, and mules at 1,811. In addition, there are 427 buffaloes, mostly used on the timber grants.

68. Of the total of 57,266,874 acres comprising the whole of the Colony, the area alienated at the end of 1926 under grants, leases, and licences for agriculture, grazing, and timber purposes amounted to a total of 3,697,397 acres.

69. One hundred and sixteen grants were issued, comprising a total area of 914 acres.

70. Fifty-four leases, comprising 1,005 acres, were issued. Four of these comprised an aggregate area of 574 acres, the remainder for the most part being for small areas of an average of 10 acres.

MINING.

71. The number of grants and concessions for mining purposes in existence at the end of 1926 was 11. The total number of claim licences (surface washing) in existence at 31st December, 1926, was :—

For gold, 538—of which 80 were issued during the year ;
For diamonds, 2,210—of which 890 were issued during 1926.

72. Nine Exclusive Permissions (to prospect) were issued, bringing the total number of these titles in existence at 31st December last up to 25.

73. One thousand six hundred and seventy-three general prospecting licences were issued.

74. The output of alluvial diamonds in 1926 was 164,156 $\frac{3}{8}$ carats of a total value of £718,182 10s., a decrease of 18,738 $\frac{1}{8}$ carats on the 1925 production.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

75. A certain quantity of leather and cocoa is prepared for local consumption. Matches are made, and there is a large and well-equipped ice factory with cold storage facilities.

76. One of the three ironwork foundries has good accommodation for the docking and repairing of steamers of small size. There is also a Government dry dock 160 feet long and 35 feet wide.

77. There are two well-equipped factories in Georgetown which manufacture boots and shoes of all descriptions for the local market. The larger is capable of turning out 600 pairs per week, while the smaller can handle 200 pairs.

78. Of two biscuit factories, one makes 250 barrels of biscuits per week and the other 200 barrels.

79. There are many aerated water factories established in Georgetown and New Amsterdam and at a few places in country districts. These manufacture aerated drinks, which find a ready sale locally.

FISHERIES.

80. There is room for considerable development in many directions, especially in deep-sea fishing.

81. A fair supply of sea-fish is generally kept in cold storage at the ice manufacturing establishment in Georgetown above referred to. In early times, smoked or barbecued paku was obtained from the North-West District of the Colony in large quantities, but this is now rarely seen. Salt cod, herrings, and mackerel are imported in quantity, but no Colony fishes are cured. Fresh-water fish is obtainable in the markets, but the supply does not meet the demand.

82. The angler may enjoy good sport with tarpon (or cuffum) as well as with several other fish which are more grateful to the palate. The river-fishing in the interior is exceptionally good.

83. Fish-glue or isinglass from the gilbaker was exported to the amount of 20,943 lb., value £911.

84. Crustaceans, such as crabs and prawns, add much to the food supply in the country districts. Now that imported fish is much higher in price the demand for fresh fish has increased without a corresponding increase in the supply; hence prices are generally higher.

FORESTRY.

85. Field work was commenced in 1926 by the detailed examination of the forests of the Bartica-Potaro-Tiboku triangle. In connection with this work an area of 598 square miles was valued, entailing the survey of $102\frac{3}{4}$ miles of main line and 588 miles of 100 foot strip. Topographical maps of all areas valued have been prepared. A report* was issued on the part of this work as far as the Kaburi River in August and disclosed the fact that these forests are of high potential value. The report was of considerable interest and a second edition was issued shortly after the first.

86. A sample of Kokerite fruit was sent to the Imperial Institute to be tested for oil content, and samples of 13 of the commonest species of trees were also sent to be tested for paper pulp.

87. Experiments in seasoning were commenced with Mora sleepers and Purpleheart and continued during the year.

88. The inspection of Greenheart for export was carried out for those who desired it, and 2,382 logs totalling 136,998 cubic feet were inspected and branded during the year, 1,157 by the Forestry Department and 1,225 by the Department of Lands and Mines. There is a growing demand for qualified inspection, and in certain instances it has led to the placing of orders here which would otherwise have gone elsewhere.

89. A course of lectures was given to Surveyors and Police Officers to enable them to report on forests through which they passed in the ordinary course of their duties. A pamphlet on fire protection was published during the drought and methods of protection were explained at the Forestry Office. Botanical specimens

* Combined Court Sessional Paper, No. 40 of 1926.

were collected steadily during the year, and a largely-increasing volume of enquiries was dealt with. An official pamphlet on Greenheart was published* and a considerable demand for copies has arisen, particularly in the United States of America.

90. The staff of the Forestry Department is now complete and consists of the Conservator, one Deputy Conservator-Superintendent of Forest Surveys, three Assistant Conservators, and three Surveyors.

91. The number of licences issued for wood-cutting purposes was 158, embracing an aggregate area of 68,275 acres.

RIVER SURVEYS.

92. Steady progress was made with the survey of the Essequibo River, commenced by Captain C. M. Gibson, R.N., O.B.E., in November, 1925. The main triangulation of the ships' channel from Enterprise stelling to Bartica, and the Penal Settlement was completed in July. In order that the points used in the triangulation may be identified in future years, permanent marks have been sunk in the river and placed on the mainland. Soundings have been taken as far up the Mazaruni River as it is safe for sea-going vessels to proceed. It is expected to complete the soundings in 1927 from a point where the operations of H.M.S. "Ormonde" ended. H.M. Survey Ship "Ormonde" arrived in the Colony on the 18th June to make a re-survey of the approaches from the sea to the Demerara and Essequibo rivers, and commenced work at once. This survey, which was completed on the 16th September, should prove of great value to shipping calling here, when the results have been charted and published. The "Ormonde" also rendered valuable assistance in connexion with Captain Gibson's survey of the Essequibo River. The calibration of the direction finding station at Georgetown has also been checked and the range of its arc extended with the assistance of the "Ormonde."

VI.—Banks and Banking Facilities.

93. Accounts are kept in dollars and cents. British sterling and United States gold coin are current and legal tender.

94. On the 16th August, 1915, the Combined Court approved of the issue of Government currency notes of the face value of \$1 = 4s. 2d. and \$2 = 8s. 4d. The first notes were issued in January, 1917, and on the 31st December, 1926, there were notes in circulation to the face value of £104,166 13s. 4d.

95. Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) and the Royal Bank of Canada have establishments at Georgetown, with branches at New Amsterdam, Berbice. Both of these banks carry on savings bank business at their head offices in Georgetown.

* Extract from *Official Gazette* of 17th July, 1926.

96. The first Government Savings Banks were established at Georgetown and New Amsterdam in the year 1836, and the first Post Office Savings Banks in December, 1889. In November, 1910, the Combined Court passed a resolution approving of the amalgamation of these banks, and authorising the transfer of the Government Savings Bank to the Post Office as from the 1st July, 1911. Savings bank business is conducted at 52 post offices throughout the Colony.

VII.—Education.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

97. The expenditure on grants-in-aid to primary schools during the year was £69,998 6s. 5d. This sum was distributed among 265 schools, with a total roll of 44,964 and an average total attendance of 31,162. Payment of these grants is based on the average attendance.

98. The total number of teachers was 1,409, made up as follows :—

- 90 trained and certificated teachers.
- 279 certified teachers (not trained).
- 674 uncertificated teachers.
- 366 pupil teachers.

99. Four teachers were added to the number of certificated teachers, on the results of an examination held locally during the year. A sum of £893 12s. 3½d. was expended on the instruction of primary school teachers by means of lectures on English, Mathematics, the Principles of Teaching (with demonstrations of school method), Hygiene, Physical Training, and Drawing.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

100. Facilities for the secondary education of boys are provided at :—

- (1) Queen's College, a Government secondary school ;
- (2) St. Stanislaus' College, a Roman Catholic grammar school ;
- (3) Berbice High School, under the control of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission ;
- (4) St. Joseph's Intermediate School, maintained by private enterprise ;
- (5) Trinity High School, under the auspices of the Wesleyan Mission.

101. Younger boys are also received at St. Rose's School, maintained by the Ursuline Convent, and at the Bishop's High School ; and, in connection with several of the primary schools, classes for secondary instruction are also provided.

102. The needs of girls are supplied by :—

- (1) The Bishop's High School for Girls ;
- (2) St. Ursula's and St. Rose's Schools in connection with the Ursuline Convent ;
- (3) St. Joseph's High School in connection with the Convent of Mercy, Charlestown ;
- (4) St. Joseph's Intermediate School ;
- (5) Berbice High School for Girls ;
- (6) Trinity High School.

103. The work in these schools is tested principally by the results obtained in the various public examinations of the Cambridge University Local Examinations Syndicate and of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board.

104. During 1926 the total voted as grants-in-aid of secondary education amounted to £8,152.

105. Assistance in obtaining secondary education is afforded by various scholarships. The Government annually awards seven scholarships for boys and five for girls under twelve years of age from primary and private schools. These are of the value of £20 16s. 8d. per annum and are tenable ordinarily for four years, but may be extended to six or seven years. A Government Junior Scholarship of the same value as a Primary Scholarship is awarded annually to the boy or girl taking first place in the Cambridge Local Preliminary Examination. Queen's College Scholarships, of the same value as a Primary Scholarship, are offered annually, to boys attending Queen's College, on the results of the Oxford and Cambridge School Certificate Examination. The Guiana Scholarship, which is awarded annually on the results of the Higher Certificate Examination of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board and is of a total value of £900 payable in quarterly instalments extending over three, four, or five years, affords a means whereby a student, whether boy or girl, may proceed to a university or higher technical college in the British Empire.

106. In addition to the above, scholarships have been provided by private benefactions. The Mitchell Foundation gives three scholarships in two years for boys and one annually for girls, of the value of £18 5s. per annum (all tenable for four years) on the results of the Cambridge Preliminary Local Examination. The Blair Bequest provides scholarships of the total value of £50, spread over four years, to pupils under fourteen years of age from Government grant-in-aid primary schools. A Trust Fund, created under the will of Pierre Louis de Saffon, a resident of the Colony who died over a century ago, undertakes the education and maintenance of a certain number of boys and girls, the number varying according to the revenue derived from the Fund. The Percival Exhibition, of about £8, is awarded annually to the pupil from Queen's College who is placed first at the lower Certificate Examination of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

107. Industrial education in the Colony is provided for by the Industrial Training Ordinance No. 6 of 1910 and the Government Industrial School Ordinance No. 8 of 1907. A Board of Industrial Training, appointed under the first-named Ordinance, provides for the indenture of apprentices in the different trades, such as engineering, building, printing, shipping, clothing, &c. Ordinance 8 of 1907 makes provision for the instruction and training of vagrant boys and youthful male offenders under the age of 16 years and until the age of 18.

108. The Onderneeming Industrial School, which was established under the Ordinance, has accommodation for 200 boys. The number of inmates on the 31st December, 1926, was 154, whilst the daily average during the year was 156.51.

109. The actual net cost to the Colony per boy per diem was 14½d., as against a similar amount for 1925.

110. The majority of boys have been trained in Agriculture. In addition to the cultivation and curing ready for the market of coffee, cocoa, para rubber, limes and coconuts, they have been trained in the cultivation of ground provisions, plantains, corn, &c., of which there were at the School 22 acres fully cultivated at the end of the year. The boys in the bakery, tailoring and carpentry shops have been kept up to full strength. The bakery supplies excellent bread not only to the School but to the public hospital, Suddie, and the public in general residing in the neighbourhood. A certain number of boys have also been employed and trained in the factory, where concentrated lime-juice and distilled lime-oil are manufactured, padi hulled, and corn-flour made.

VIII.—Legislation.

111. There were thirty public Ordinances and one private Ordinance passed during the year. The principal public Ordinances are :—

1. Married Women (Torts) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 3).—Under the common law of the Colony (which is the same as in England) a husband is liable for his wife's torts, even though under the Married Persons' Property Ordinance, 1904 (the colonial adaptation of the English Married Women's Property Act, 1882), the husband and wife became separate persons as regards property. The Ordinance follows on the decision of the House of Lords in *Edwards v. Porter* (1925) A.C.1. and exempts a husband from liability to be sued or made a party to any action or legal proceedings brought against a married woman for any tort committed by her before or after marriage.

2. Statute Law Revision Ordinance, 1926 (No. 4).—The Revised Edition of the laws of the Colony which was published in 1923 having been found unsatisfactory, a fresh revision became necessary.

The Ordinance follows the form usual in such cases, and constitutes Sir Charles Major, Chief Justice, Commissioner for the revision, and in the event of his inability to carry on the work confers on the Governor authority to appoint someone else. Generally the Ordinance gives the necessary authority and powers to the Commissioner for the revision and printing.

3. Registration of Business Names Ordinance, 1926 (No. 11).—This Ordinance amends the Registration of Business Names Ordinance, 1919, by :—

(i) providing that every individual firm required to be registered shall affix in some conspicuous part of the outside of the building or room in which the business of the individual or firm is carried on a board or metal plate on which shall be legibly and clearly printed in letters not less than an inch long in addition to the business name the christian name and surname of the individual or (as the case may be) of each partner of the firm carrying on such business, and

(ii) extending the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 18 to business letters, &c., issued or sent to any person in any country or place.

4. The Opium Ordinance, 1926 (No. 13).—This Ordinance gives effect to the measures decided upon at the International Opium Convention signed at Geneva on the 19th February, 1925, and regulates the importation, exportation, storage, and disposal of opium, morphine, diacetylmorphine, cocaine, coca leaf, crude cocaine, ecgonine, and similar drugs.

5. The District Lands Partition and Re-Allotment Ordinance, 1926 (No. 16).—This Ordinance repeals the District Lands Partition Ordinance No. 14 of 1914 and the amending Ordinance No. 12 of 1920. It deals with conditions of land occupation which are peculiar to the Colony. In many cases there are undivided lands occupied in common by the owners, and it is at times beneficial to provide for the partition and allotment of these lands. Such partition and allotment has to be done with regard for provision for drainage. It also happens that blocks of land have been partitioned in the past and titles granted to the owners, but the occupation has not been in conformity with such division or titles. It frequently becomes necessary to make a sub-division more in accordance with the mode of occupation and to give the owners titles for their new lots. There are also cases where the original distribution of the land has not been properly done, having regard to the requirements of drainage, &c. All these cases are dealt with in the Ordinance.

Proceedings are commenced by a petition to the Governor-in-Council by owners of shares or of holdings which in the aggregate constitute not less than 51 per centum in extent or in value of the area to which the petition relates. On this petition the Governor-in-Council may make an order that the land shall be subject to the provisions of the Ordinance, and he may appoint an officer to exercise the powers conferred by the Ordinance. The officer so appointed must convene a meeting of all persons claiming to be owners or mortgagees of any interest in the land, and receive their claims. Thereafter he is empowered to enter on the land, to provide for service of notices, to make partition, to arrange for compensation in respect of crops or buildings, and to grant titles to the new owners.

6. Public Loan (Supplementary) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 21).—Authorises the Governor or the Crown Agents to raise an approved loan from moneys belonging to sinking funds held by the Crown Agents on behalf of all or any of the Colonies and Protectorates, as an alternative to the mode of raising loans provided by the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance, 1913.

7. Deceased United States Citizens Estates Ordinance, 1926 (No. 24).—This Ordinance gives statutory force to Article III of the Convention signed at Washington between the United Kingdom and the United States of America relative to the tenure and disposition of real and personal property of subjects and citizens of each of the respective countries situated, or being within, the territories of the other, and authorises the representation of deceased persons by the Consuls of their respective nations in the settlement of estates. This Colony acceded to the Convention in 1901.

8. Georgetown Electric Supply and Tramways Ordinance, 1926 (No. 29).—The object of this Ordinance is to enable the Governor-in-Council to make an order authorising the supply of electricity for public and private purposes by the Demerara Electric Company, Limited, and also to grant to the said Company a licence to construct, maintain, and operate tramways in the City of Georgetown and its environs.

IX.—Communications.

OCEAN COMMUNICATIONS.

112. Regular steamship communication is maintained with the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, the West Indies, and the Dutch and French Guianas. The principal lines calling here are the Harrison Direct Line, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Trinidad Line, the Royal Netherlands West India Mail Company, the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, the Colombian Steamship Company, and the Dutch Government steamers.

113. The Canadian Government has entrusted the fulfilment of a regular steamship service, which is provided for under the Trade Agreement between the Dominion and the British West Indies, to the Canadian National Railways Management. The service will be put into operation as nearly as possible within the time stipulated in the Agreement. Pending provision of this service, a temporary monthly passenger and freight service will be continued from Canadian Atlantic ports to all islands and Colonies of the Eastern Group. The proposed new service provides for several important concessions to this Colony in the matter of cargo space and passenger reservations. It will also provide for adequate cold storage accommodation.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS.

114. The Demerara River is navigable by ocean-going steamers as far as Mackenzie, 67 miles from Georgetown. Above Mackenzie, shallow-draught steamers or launches can proceed as far as Mallali, a further 40 miles.

115. The Essequibo River is navigable by ocean-going steamers to Bartica and thence up the Mazaruni River as far as Kartabo Point, a total distance from Georgetown of 60 miles.

116. From Kartabo Point, steam launches can proceed up the Cuyuni River, a further five miles as far as Lower Camaria, and up the Mazaruni River for about five miles to Karia Island.

117. From Bartica, small steamers can proceed up the Essequibo River as far as Monkey Jump—12 miles, and launches run between Rockstone and Tumatumari, Potaro River, a distance of 66 miles.

118. The Berbice River is navigable by small steamers as far as Paradise, a distance of 95 miles from New Amsterdam.

119. The Corentyne River is navigable by ocean-going steamers for 50 miles to Orealla and by small steamers for another 32 miles to Epira.

120. The Waini River gives access to the Barima River through British territory and is navigable by small steamers to Morawhanna through the Mora Passage. From Morawhanna, small vessels can proceed up the Barima River for about 45 miles.

121. The Pomeroon River is navigable by small steamers for approximately 37 miles from its mouth.

122. Roads, with an aggregate length of 269 miles and a good motoring surface, extend along the coastlands from Springlands on the Corentyne River to Charity on the Pomeroon River, and also along the lower reaches of the principal rivers for short distances, but do not penetrate inland. Communication beyond these

limits is, generally speaking, by water, but there are also roads in the interior. These are as follows:—

In the North-West District, between Arakaka on the Barima River and Towakaima on the Barima River, a distance of 29 miles, with a branch line to Five Stars, a distance of 17 miles; and from the Barima River, opposite Morawhanna, to Wanaina Creek, a distance of 11 miles, eight of which are suitable for motor traffic. The latter road passes over the Mabaruma hills, on which are situated the Government Offices for the administration of the District, a Public Hospital, &c. In the Potaro District, between Tumatumari and St. Mary, Konawaruk, $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and Potaro Landing and Minnehaha, $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles, with a connecting trail from the six-mile post on the former road to the 10-mile post on the latter (known as the Tiger Creek line), a distance of $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and a trail from the $1\frac{1}{2}$ -mile post on the Potaro North Fork Road to Kangaruma on the right bank of the River Potaro, a distance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. In the Essequibo District, between Bartica on the Essequibo River and Kaburi on the Mazaruni River, a distance of $78\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and between Lower Camaria and Upper Camaria on the Cuyuni River, a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Bartica, at the junction of the Essequibo and Mazaruni rivers, is connected by road to Kaburi on the latter river, and from there trails extend to Potaro Landing on the Potaro River, a distance of 32 miles, and to Tiboku Falls, a distance of about 76 miles on the Mazaruni River.

123. A cattle trail has been constructed and is being maintained by the Government between Takama on the Berbice River and Annai on the Rupununi River, a distance of 180 miles, with a branch line to Arakwa, a place approximately opposite Wismar on the Demerara River. During 1921, a trace was made of a further branch line starting at a point on the trail 12 miles east of Arakwa and connecting at Hyde Park with the bridle-path and public road running along the east bank of the Demerara River, but on account of lack of funds this branch line has not yet been constructed.

RAILWAYS.

124. There are three lines of single-track railway in the Colony, of which two were acquired by the Government from the late Demerara Railway Company and one is owned and operated by Messrs. Sproston Limited, a local company. One of the Government lines runs from Georgetown along the east coast of Demerara for a distance of $60\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Rosignol on the left bank of the Berbice River and diagonally opposite New Amsterdam. The other runs along the west coast of Demerara for a distance of $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles, starting at Vreed-en-Hoop on the left bank of the Demerara River and ending at Parika, a point on the coast immediately opposite the Island of Leguan in the estuary of the Essequibo River.

125. Messrs Sproston's line of railway runs from Wismar on the left bank of the Demerara River to Rockstone on the right bank of the Essequibo River, a distance of about 18½ miles, and forms an important link in the means available for reaching the Potaro gold and diamond diggings. In connexion with this railway, a tri-weekly service of steamers and steam launches is run on the Demerara and Essequibo rivers.

STEAMERS.

126. The Colonial Transport Department (owned by Government) operates steamers on the following routes :—

Ferries across the Demerara, Berbice, and Essequibo rivers.

A steamer service from Georgetown to Morawhanna and Mabaruma, with launch connexion to Mount Everard on the Barima River, North-West District.

Georgetown to Adventure on the Essequibo Coast.

Georgetown to Bartica at the junction of the Essequibo, Mazaruni, and Cuyuni rivers.

Georgetown to Pickersgill and other stations on the upper reaches of the Pomeroon River.

Parika and Aurora.

New Amsterdam, on the right bank of the Berbice River, to Paradise, 110 miles up that river.

Launch services are also run as follows :—

Bartica to Matopo on the Cuyuni River.

Charity, on the Pomeroon River, up and down the river and also to Acquero on the Moruka River.

New Amsterdam to Ilkuruwa, up the Canje Creek.

127. Messrs. Sproston, Limited, operate a steamship service between Georgetown, Wismar on the west bank, and Mackenzie on the east bank, of the Demerara River, also a launch service between Wismar and Mallali on the upper reaches of this river.

128. Sailing craft owned by this Company also run between Georgetown and New Amsterdam.

129. There are approximately 1,000 motor cars in use in the Colony, of which unfortunately only a small number are of British make. In recent years, however, there has been an increase in the number of British cars imported.

130. The seaplane imported by the Real Daylight Balata Estates, Limited, in 1925 continues to be used as a rapid means of communication with points in the interior.

131. Arrangements can be made through Messrs. Sproston, Limited, for visiting the Kaieteur Fall. The journey is by way of the Demerara and Essequibo rivers, from Georgetown to Wismar

on the former river by steamer, thence by train to Rockstone on the latter river, thence by launch to Potaro Landing, thence on foot by a path through the forest seven miles to Kangaruma on the Potaro River, and thence by boat to Tukeit, passing Amatuk waterfall and Waratuk cataract on the way. After leaving Tukeit there is a climb to the top of Kaieteur. The trip to and from the Fall occupies 11 or 12 days, and costs approximately £25 a head for a party comprising not less than six persons.

X.—Public Works.

132. A sum of £31,872 was expended during the year on the maintenance (including minor alterations and improvements) of Colonial properties and the upkeep of historic sites, ancient buildings, and landmarks. Extraordinary public works were also carried out at a cost of £10,487. The expenditure on the maintenance of Government roads, the clearing of creeks, improvement of channels in rivers, &c., was £57,486. Extraordinary expenditure on roads and bridges was £5,433. The maintenance of sea defences cost £13,160.

133. During the year, £52,733 was expended in connexion with the scheme for the drainage and irrigation of the coastlands, and £41,991 on the sinking of artesian wells to provide a pure-water supply for the more populous villages.

XI.—Coastal Drainage, and Water Supply.

DRAINAGE.

134. Further progress was made with the irrigation and drainage of coastal lands.

135. Except for the extension of the Tapacooma Conservancy, work was completed in Essequibo during the year. On the West Coast, Demerara, the pumping plant at Windsor Forest was put into operation, and only some trench excavation in the vicinity remains to be completed. On the East Coast, Demerara, work has been practically completed, and pumping plants in five different localities are working successfully. The schemes for the East Coast of Berbice and on the Corentyne Coast are progressing, and that for the Gibraltar-Courtland district should be completed by the middle of 1927.

136. With the completion of the programme for the drainage of the coastal lands with powerful pumps placed in suitable localities, the periodic extensive flooding, with resultant malaria and intestinal ailments, should be considerably diminished. There are already indications of improvement in the public health in districts in which the drainage scheme is already in operation.

WATER SUPPLY.

137. In connection with the scheme for providing a pure drinking-water supply for the more populous villages along the coast, further artesian wells were sunk in Berbice and on the West Coast, Demerara, during 1926. Another set of plant was imported, enabling three wells to be sunk at a time, and special tools and materials were also delivered, so that the wells can now be formed with a double casing where necessary.

138. Good progress has been made in sinking artesian wells to provide a pure-water supply in rural areas. They are proving entirely successful. The scheme is being extended, and when completed there should result a great improvement in public health, due to a plentiful supply of pure drinking-water, and the conditions which obtained and followed the drought of 1925-26, it is hoped, will not recur.

XII.—Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Services.

139. The Postal Service embraces the whole of the coastlands and extends up the principal rivers. The General Post Office is situated in Georgetown, and there are 51 branch post offices, 19 postal agencies, and 9 travelling post offices. The Post Office also controls the inland telegraph and telephone systems.

XIII.—Government Publications.

140. The following publications of the British Guiana Government are on sale at the offices of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1., and at the office of the Government Trade Commissioner for British Guiana in London, at the prices indicated :—

Handbook of the Colony...	...	1s. each.
Journal of the Board of Agriculture	...	1d. each.
"Rubber and Balata in British Guiana"	...	6d. each.
"Timbers of British Guiana"	...	5s. each.
Memorandum of terms on which Crown land can be bought	...	2d. each.
Annual Reports of—		
Conservator of Forests	...	} 1d. per page with maximum charge of 1s. each.
Comptroller of Customs	...	
Local Government Board	...	
Commissioner of Lands and Mines	...	
Director of Science and Agriculture	...	
Registrar-General	...	
Official Receiver and Public Trustee	...	
Colonial Transport Department	...	
Directors of Widows' and Orphans' Fund.	...	
Postmaster-General	...	
And any others likely to be of interest		

Copies of British Guiana Ordinances likely to be of interest to persons outside the Colony.	2d. per page with maximum charge of 2s. per Ordinance.
Regulations passed under these Ordinances.	2d. per page with maximum charge of 2s.
Volumes of revised edition of the Laws of British Guiana to 1921.	<div> <div></div> <div> 6 guineas per set (half calf). 5 guineas per set (stiff paper). </div> </div>
Blue Book	£1.
Combined Court papers and Court of Policy papers likely to be of interest to persons outside the Colony.	½d. per page with maximum charge of 1s.
Copies of Railway tariffs and time tables	Free of charge.
Report of a Preliminary Survey of the Mazaruni and Puruni Diamond Fields, British Guiana (Part 1), by Mr. H. J. C. Conolly	15s. per copy (<i>at the Crown Agents</i>).

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,

Colonial Secretary.

July, 1927.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased.

ASHANTI.
BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PRO-
TECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMEN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRI-
TORIES.
GRENADA.

HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES
UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
WEI-HAI-WEI.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
'IRAQ.

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

BRITISH TOGOLAND.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

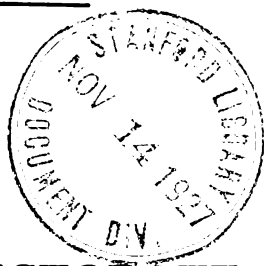
SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

555,34
9-17
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1352.



COLONY AND PROTECTORATE
OF KENYA.

Report for 1926.

*(For Reports for 1924 and 1925 see Nos. 1282 and 1321,
respectively (Price 1s. each).)*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price: 1s. 3d. net.

58-25-0-26

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I. Geographical Note	3
II. General Observations	3
Measures for the Improvement of Native Conditions	6
Public Health	8
Vital Statistics	10
Migration	11
III. Government Finance	12
IV. Trade and Agriculture	13
Imports	15
Exports	17
Agriculture	18
V. Land... ..	23
Mines	24
Forests	24
VI. Legislation	27
VII. Education	28
VIII. Communications—	
Railways and Marine	30
Shipping	32
Roads	33
Posts and Telegraphs	34
IX. Climate	37

Appendix I.—Principal Domestic Exports.

Appendix II.—Exports of Native Origin.

REPORT ON THE COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF KENYA FOR THE YEAR 1926.

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

The Kenya Colony and Protectorate (Boundaries) Order in Council, 1926, defined the western boundary of the Colony and included in Kenya an area on the west of Lake Rudolf and north of the River Turkwel, stretching from Mount Elgon to Mount Zulia on the boundary of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, which had formerly formed part of the Uganda Protectorate. The addition of this Northern Turkana district to Kenya (15,854 square miles) has increased the area of Kenya Colony and Protectorate to 225,100 square miles. The land area is 221,089 square miles and the water area 4,011 square miles. The water area includes the larger portion of Lake Rudolf and the eastern waters of the Victoria Nyanza, including the Kavirondo Gulf.

The Anglo-Italian Jubaland boundary was under survey and delimitation during the year.

The Colony and Protectorate of Kenya is traversed centrally from east to west by the Equator and from north to south by Meridian Line $37\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ East of Greenwich. It extends from 4° North to 4° South of the Equator and from 34° East Longitude to 41° East.

The official time used is the zone time $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours fast on Greenwich.

II.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Colony and Protectorate were administered throughout the year by the Governor, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir E. W. M. Grigg, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C.

The first Conference of East African Governors was held in Nairobi in January and February, 1926. The permanent organisation of the Governors' Conference Secretariat was approved during the course of the year. The Conference Secretariat is located in Nairobi and its offices will form a part of the new Government House building now in course of construction.

The second conference of delegates of unofficial communities in the East African Territories was held under the Chairmanship of Lord Delamere at Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia, in September, 1926. The conference was attended by delegates from Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Tanganyika, and Kenya, and by a nominee of the Premier of Southern Rhodesia.

The Legislative Council held six sessions and sat on twenty-nine days during the course of the year. Mr. M. A. Desai, one of the Nominated Indian Unofficial Members, died on the 14th July, 1926.

The Legislative Council was dissolved, preparatory to the triennial general elections, on the 21st January, 1927. The elections were held during January and February, 1927, with the following returns :—

Nairobi North, Captain H. F. Ward (i).

Nairobi South, Captain H. E. Schwartze (i).

Mombasa, G. G. Atkinson.

Coast, Major R. W. B. Robertson-Eustace, D.S.O. (i).

Lake, Conway Harvey (i).

Rift Valley, Lord Delamere (i).

Plateau North, Lieut.-Colonel J. G. Kirkwood, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Plateau South, T. J. O'Shea (i).

Kenya, Captain E. M. V. Kenealy (i).

Ukamba, Lieut.-Colonel Lord Francis Scott, D.S.O. (i).

Kikuyu, Lieut.-Colonel C. G. Durham, D.S.O.

Indian Electoral Area, A. H. Malik. (Four vacancies).

Arab Electoral Area, Hamed Mohamed bin Issa (i).

(i) An Elected Member of the previous Council.

The constitution of the Council provided for the election of five Indian Elected Members and provided further that until such Indian Elected Members had been elected there should be five Nominated Indian Unofficial Members. The return of one Indian Elected Member with four vacancies has led to the promulgation of Additional Royal Instructions dated the 28th March, 1927, under which it is laid down that if after a dissolution of the Council less than five persons are elected to be Indian Elected Members, or if at any time the number of Indian Elected Members is less than five, the vacancy or vacancies so arising may be filled by the appointment of Nominated Indian Unofficial Members in the following manner :—

Until the termination of one year from the date of the Additional Royal Instructions, nominations may be made from the Indian community in general. These nominations will last for not more than one year from the date of the Additional Royal Instructions and thereafter nominations will only be made from among those persons whose names are entered on the register for the time being of voters for the election of Indian Elected Members, prepared in accordance with the Legislative Council Ordinance or amendments thereto.

Since January, 1924, when rules were first introduced enabling qualified members of the Indian community to register as voters for the election of Indian Elected Members, a small number only of qualified Indian residents have entered their names on the roll. The Indian register published in June, 1926, upon which the elections were held in January contained some 360 names only. The object of the Additional Royal Instructions is to afford opportunity to the Indian community to make the register of voters representa-

tive of the community during the current year with a view to an election for Indian Elected Members being held early in 1928.

A Commission of Inquiry under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Feetham was appointed in July to make recommendations as to the establishment or extension of local government for Nairobi, Mombasa, and their environs, and for such settled areas as the Commissioners might consider to be suitable for the establishment of local government. The Commission heard evidence in all parts of the settled areas of the Colony and presented its report in March, 1927.

The Colony was visited during December, 1926, and January, 1927, by Mr. W. C. Bottomley, C.B., C.M.G., O.B.E., Assistant Secretary of the East Africa Department of the Colonial Office, who made an extensive tour through native and settled areas in Kenya before proceeding to other parts of East Africa.

The Mombasa Town Plan was passed and brought into operation. By the end of the year a sum of approximately £8,000 had been spent from loan funds on the Town Planning of Mombasa and nearly £36,000 had been spent on improvements and Town Planning in Mombasa Old Town.

A Nairobi Area Town Planning Authority was appointed in March, 1926, with directions to prepare a Town Planning Scheme for the central portion of Nairobi, and was given a general authority over an area comprised in a circle of twenty miles diameter taking Nairobi House as its centre. At the close of the year the initial stages of its task were practically completed.

A Kenya Advisory Committee was established to work with the Advisory Committee in England of the Eastern African Dependencies Trade and Information Office as a channel for regular reports and the latest and fullest information available. The object of the Committee is to give information on land and crops to settlers with capital, to give information about suitable farms to apprentices desiring work on farms, and to provide so far as possible for the filling of appointments which will promote the immigration of the foreman class. The Committee has helped to bring the Colony into touch with such important bodies as the Empire Marketing Board who will, it is hoped, be able to assist industries in this country, in particular the dairy industry. As a result of recommendations put forward by the Kenya Advisory Committee, enquiries are being made as to the possibility of securing loan funds for the formation of a Land and Agricultural Bank, and the Government of the Union of South Africa has offered to give assistance and advice from the result of experience gained in the working of the Land and Agricultural Bank in the Union.

Plans for the investigation of lake fisheries have advanced towards maturity and it is expected that the fisheries on the Victoria Nyanza will be examined during the current year. No

suitable arrangements have yet been made for a marine investigation of the coast fisheries, but the South African Government have shown themselves willing to co-operate with East African Governments in the matter and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to report progress.

The year was a satisfactory one financially, the Colonial surplus increasing from £149,723 at the end of 1925 to £362,265 at the end of 1926. The Estimates for 1927, which were passed by the Legislative Council in November, provided for a tax to be levied on the European and Indian communities sufficient to cover the cost respectively of European and Indian education services, in the form of a consumption tax on wines and spirits, accompanied by a poll cess of thirty shillings per head for the European and twenty shillings per head for the Indian adult male population.

Several buildings, to be constructed out of loan funds, were begun during the course of the year. These include Government Houses, Nairobi and Mombasa, and the European School, Nairobi. Loan funds have also been expended on the installation of a maize drying and a cold storage plant at Kilindini, on water supplies at Mombasa, Nakuru, and Kisumu, on the Town Planning of Mombasa, and in advances to the Nairobi Municipality.

Ships came freely alongside the new deep-water berths at Kilindini during the latter half of the year, and the construction of two further deep-water berths has been sanctioned.

Progress was made in the construction of the main railway line extension with Uganda and of the branch lines in Kenya to Nyeri, Solai, and Kitale. The Solai and Kitale branches were completed during the year, and the Nyeri line was opened to public traffic as far as Sagana. The main line reached Tororo, in Uganda, in January, 1927.

Although the trade statistics indicate decreases as compared with the returns of 1925, steady progress has been made in agriculture. There has been a marked increase in the acreage put under wheat, barley, and tea, and considerable increases in European areas in the cultivation of maize, coffee, sisal, and sugar-cane. The rainfall in the densely populated native areas of Nyanza and Kikuyu was above the average, but in Nyanza crops suffered in consequence and yields were low. Fever amongst the inhabitants in Nyanza restricted the amount of work done, particularly towards the end of the year. These factors tended to reduce the output of marketable crops, with the result reflected in the schedule of agricultural exports of native origin contained in Appendix II.

Measures for the Improvement of Native Conditions.

The most important step taken during the year, so far as natives are concerned, was the final delimitation of the native reserve boundaries, descriptions of which were published in the *Official*

Gazette in October. This measure was introduced and approved in 1925 and the necessary action was then taken. Time was, however, given for objections to be raised to the boundaries proposed. Such objections were very few. There still remain a few small areas in respect of which a decision has not yet been taken. The publication of these boundary descriptions has been welcomed, in particular by the native population.

Local Native Councils have made good progress under the presidency of the District Officers, and measures of considerable administrative and social value have resulted from their deliberations. Discussions which took place in the Councils among the more progressive tribes indicate considerable realisation of their duties and responsibilities, and their interest in the extension of educational facilities. During the current year, various Local Native Councils have voted to this end a sum aggregating £5,530. Funds have also been voted for the extension of medical services.

By-laws were passed by the Nairobi Municipality during the year which aimed, *inter alia*, at ridding the town of undesirable natives, while at the same time affording all proper protection to those who come into the municipal area for employment or other lawful purpose. It is hoped that these by-laws will have the effect, not only of reducing crime, but of protecting honest working natives from the importunities of idle relatives who endeavour to live at their expense.

The Native Labourers' (Medical Treatment) Rules, introduced in August, 1926, under the provisions of the Master and Servants Ordinance, make it incumbent on employers of native labour to maintain a supply of necessary medicines on their farms and to provide free medical treatment for their servants for a period of thirty days from the date of commencement of illness, or to the end of the contractual period, whichever is the less.

The Crop Production and Livestock Ordinance, 1926, gives power to the Governor-in-Council to make rules for improving the cultural conditions of any crop and the quality of agricultural produce, for prohibiting the growing of particular kinds of plants, for promoting the improvement of the quality of live stock and the disposal of surplus and undesirable stock. It is hoped that, with careful administration, rules to be made under this Ordinance will improve, *inter alia*, the conditions in overstocked areas, the pasture in which is fast becoming destroyed by excessive grazing.

Tree planting is being carried on in the provinces of Nyanza, Kikuyu, and Ukamba. In the last-named Province, in conjunction with a scheme for the re-conditioning of desiccated areas, some 800,000 young trees were planted during 1926 under the auspices of the Forestry Department and the Machakos Local Native Council.

The arrangements that were in force in 1925 for the leasing of a portion of the Yatta Plains to the Wakamba on payment of a grazing fee were continued during 1926 to enable further improvements to be effected in the Native Reserve. A sum of £1,700 was voted by the Local Native Council for the reconditioning of that Reserve, and this is being carried out by the natives of the area, under European supervision.

Towards the end of the year, arrangements were made to detach a senior officer of the Administration to study native law and customs, in close collaboration with the Governors' Conference Statistician. By means of this organisation it is hoped that the foundations will be laid for acquiring accurate information in regard to vital statistics, birth-rate, death-rate, length of life, and other particulars affecting the welfare of the African community. Questions of land holding and occupancy, the ideas of industry held by the natives, and the economic area which may be adequate for the family unit are also to be the subject of close investigation, with a view to securing a better general insight into factors affecting native welfare throughout the Colony and to obtaining some guidance as to the most promising lines of research.

Public Health.

During 1926 there was a large increase in the personnel of the Medical Department. Provision had been allowed in Estimates for an addition of twenty medical officers to the establishment, and the greater number of these new appointments had been made before the end of the year.

This expansion of the Department had been decided upon after consideration of the inadequacy of the previously available staff to meet the urgent needs of the Colony and after realisation of the necessity for wider and more intensive measures for the treatment of disease and the promotion of the public health among the native population. In order to provide a medical and public health service which should be more adequate to the demands made upon it, a large scheme of expansion had been drawn up during 1925; the actual increase of staff during 1926 represented the fulfilment of the preliminary part of this scheme.

As a result of the additional staff, it was found possible so to augment the headquarters administrative division of the Department as to enable more time and attention to be devoted to problems of public health and departmental supervision and control; to appoint a senior medical officer for the special duty of attention to the health of native labour; to station two medical officers in the coastal area; and to post additional medical officers to four of the larger districts, where previously one medical officer had been attempting single-handed to cope with an overwhelming

amount of work. In addition, the health office staff of Mombasa was increased by an assistant medical officer of health to undertake the rapidly growing work of the port, and another sanitation officer was detailed for posting in the new year, for the inauguration of sanitary supervision of the settled areas of Nakuru, Eldoret, and Kitale. The staff of the Medical Research Laboratory was also increased, while the native hospital and other medical institutions in Nairobi were assisted by posting to them newly-arrived medical officers, for a period of training preliminary to the assumption of more responsible duties.

The development of hospital facilities, so urgently required throughout the Colony, has had to wait upon the realisation of the extensive building programme which it is proposed to undertake with loan funds. In the meantime the work of the hospitals has been carried on in the existing temporary and inadequate buildings. The total number of cases admitted to the hospitals of the Department during the year was 29,741, an increase of 3,498 over the corresponding figures for the previous year.

Little extension was possible in the system of dispensaries in the native reserves, since the lack of disciplined and trained native dressers makes it impracticable to establish more dispensaries in any district than can be closely supervised by the medical officer. Provision for a start to be made in the training and organisation of an African Medical Corps was inserted in the Estimates for 1927.

The future of the hospitals in Nairobi has been under consideration throughout the year, and some difficulty has been experienced in selecting a site on which permanent and complete hospital buildings can be erected.

With regard to the public health, the outstanding feature of the year was the severe and widespread epidemic of malaria which occurred during and after the rainy season. This epidemic was more serious in its consequences than any malarial outbreak hitherto recorded in the Colony. 42,972 cases received treatment at Government hospitals and dispensaries, as against 23,250 in 1925. In addition to this, large numbers were treated by private practitioners and many thousands of natives received treatment from their employers on farms and estates. The outbreak was particularly noticeable in Nairobi, partly because the cases were under more immediate observation than elsewhere, partly because Nairobi has in recent years been relatively free from malaria. All races were affected, the disease in Africans being of a severe type with a high mortality. The epidemic was co-incident with an enormous increase in the number of mosquitoes. This recrudescence of malaria has provided an additional incentive to the promotion of anti-malarial measures both in Nairobi and elsewhere.

Its intensity is attributed to an abnormally long and unbroken series of rainy days with a consequent prolonged absence of sunshine.

Plague continued in endemic form in the Kavirondo and Kikuyu Reserves; small extensions of the infection occurred in the settled districts of the Highlands. In this connection the Department has carried out propaganda with a view to improvement in the type of housing for native labour on European farms, and there is already evidence of a definite advance towards more hygienic conditions. Numerous cases of plague occurred throughout the year in Nairobi; they were almost entirely confined to those parts of the town in which housing conditions are notoriously unsatisfactory.

The campaign against yaws continued in those native districts most affected; there is reason to believe that the incidence of the disease is decreasing as a result. Much work has been done towards ascertaining how far the routine treatment by bismuth is effecting permanent cure, although the immediate object is to render cases non-effective. It was found possible to carry out special measures against yaws in the Tana Valley, where previously no medical assistance had been afforded.

Smallpox, with the exception of four cases, was absent from the Colony throughout the year. In order to ensure a continuance of this immunity, the wholesale vaccination of the native population, instituted during the previous year, was continued.

Investigation into the problem of sleeping sickness on the Lake shore was undertaken in connection with, and with the help of, the International Commission on Sleeping Sickness, sitting at Entebbe. A complete census of the Lake shore population was begun with the object of discovering and treating all existing cases and so reducing the risk of the reappearance of the disease in epidemic form.

Special attention was devoted to the question of the nutritional condition of the native population. It has long been thought that much of the sickness and inefficiency of the natives of the Colony may be a consequence of deficiencies in diet. At the instigation of Dr. Orr of the Rowett Institute, the Civil Research Committee took steps in co-operation with the Kenya Government to start a nutritional investigation. One special research officer had arrived in the country at the end of the year.

Vital Statistics.

A census of the non-native population was taken in February, 1926. No such census has yet been taken of the native population. A fairly accurate count is made annually for taxation purposes, but the number of children can only be estimated roughly and the return of native population is therefore a rough estimate only. Examination of the values given from year to year shows

that no valid conclusions can be drawn from any figures hitherto published concerning the flow of population from district to district or the increase or decrease of numbers in individual districts.

The following figures show the 1921 and 1926 census returns for non-natives and the estimates of the native population at the end of 1921 and 1926.

	1921 Census.	1926 Census.	Increase per cent.
Europeans... ..	9,651	12,529	30
Asiatics (excluding Arabs)	25,880	30,583	18
Arabs	10,102	10,557	4½
	<i>Estimate</i> 1921.	<i>Estimate</i> 1926.	
Africans	2,348,788	2,682,848	19*
Totals	2,394,421	2,736,517	19*

Statistics for births, deaths and marriages among Europeans during 1926 are not yet available. In Nairobi 119 births among Europeans were reported during the year, as compared with 108 in 1925. Thirty-six deaths occurred among Europeans in Nairobi.

Statistics for Nairobi, with a total population of 32,864, show that the crude annual death-rate for 1926 was 22.64 per thousand living. The crude European death-rate was 13.5, the Asiatic 30.3, and the African 17.3 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1925 were: Europeans 10.3, Asiatics 16.1, and African 18.3 per thousand.

Statistics for Mombasa, with a total population of 39,824, show that the crude annual death-rate for 1926 was 19.48 per thousand living. The crude European death-rate was 13.31, the Indian and Goan 23.37, the Arab 19.69, and the African 18.90 per thousand.

Migration.

Statistics are kept showing the number of immigrants into Kenya, but no machinery exists for the compilation of corresponding emigration figures for the Colony alone.

A general increase in the number of immigrants entering Kenya Colony only is reflected during 1926, amounting to 1,137 persons of all races and nationalities, of whom 961, or 84 per cent., were Europeans.

The Principal Immigration Officer has again received much assistance from shipping companies at the Coast in the compilation of statistics relative to emigrants passing through Mombasa from Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, and the Belgian Congo.

* The native population showed a decrease in 1925 owing to the cession of Jubaland to Italy. For comparative purposes, the estimated native population of Jubaland at the end of 1921 (97,728) has been deducted from the 1921 estimate.

The comparative figures for the territories mentioned are as follows :—

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Immigrants.</i>		<i>Emigrants.</i>	
	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.
Europeans	4,951	6,058	3,844	4,648
Indians	9,540	9,753	4,865	6,529
Goans	953	974	533	638
Arabs	1,225	1,266	911	622
Others	2,076	2,086	1,693	2,095
Totals	18,745	20,137	11,846	14,532

The figures for immigration into Kenya only are :—

<i>Nationality.</i>	1925.	1926.
Europeans	4,212	5,173
Indians	7,161	7,271
Goans	754	743
Arabs	1,134	1,223
Others	1,907	1,895
Totals	15,168	16,305

III.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The following figures show the financial position of the Colony during the last five years :—

	£	£
Net surplus as at 1st January, 1922 ...	430,522	
1922.		
Revenue, £1,649,032.		
Expenditure, £1,972,212.		
Expenditure in excess of Revenue...		323,180
1923.		
Revenue, £1,839,447.		
Expenditure, £2,137,633.		
Expenditure in excess of Revenue...		298,186
1924.		
Revenue, £2,111,565.		
Expenditure, £1,861,511.		
Revenue in excess of Expenditure...	250,054	
1925.		
Revenue, £2,430,509.		
Expenditure, £2,339,996.		
Revenue in excess of Expenditure...	90,513	
1926.		
Revenue, £2,627,223.		
Expenditure, £2,414,681.		
Revenue in excess of Expenditure...	212,542	
Net Surplus as at 31st December, 1926		362,265
	<u>£983,631</u>	<u>£983,631</u>

The year opened with a surplus of £149,723, and at its close there was a surplus of £362,265, the revenue for the year having exceeded the expenditure by £212,542. The actual receipts of the year exceeded the estimated revenue by £253,229, and the actual expenditure exceeded the estimated expenditure by £25,928.

No change took place during the year in the Funded Public Debt of the Colony, which remained at £8,500,000.

Of the £5,000,000 raised under Ordinance No. 39 of 1921, the balance of £142,818 which remained unexpended at the beginning of the year was fully expended in the course of the year.

Of the Imperial £3,500,000 Loan authorised by Ordinance No. 29 of 1924, £858,840 was expended during the year, and interest amounting to £107,856 was earned on the unexpended balance during 1926.

IV.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

Kenya and Uganda, since 1917, have formed one administrative unit for purposes of Customs under the control of the Commissioner of Customs resident at Mombasa. Complete freedom of trade between the two territories exists, and general tariff uniformity is observed with Tanganyika Territory. Present legislation permits of the movement, without the imposition of duty in the dependency of consumption, of goods the growth, produce, or manufacture of either Kenya, Uganda, or Tanganyika Territory. Customs Management legislation in the three territories has been co-ordinated and embodied in the Kenya Customs Management Ordinance, 1926, and the Uganda Customs Management Ordinance, 1926. These Ordinances have been passed by the respective Legislative Councils and their simultaneous operation will be effected by proclamation in the Official Gazettes of Kenya and Uganda. Provision has been made for the Governments of Kenya and Uganda to enter into Customs agreements with neighbouring territories, and during the year legislation has been enacted in Tanganyika Territory which will enable that Dependency to take similar action.

The Customs tariff introduced on the 1st January, 1924, and slightly amended by minor extensions of the free list in 1925, has remained in force during the year, without alteration.

The detailed statistics of imports and exports contained in the succeeding paragraphs amply justify the measure of caution exercised in estimating trade prospects for the year under review. An uneven distribution of rainfall reduced the anticipated yield of produce in certain areas, and trading activities generally have been restricted by prevalent conditions in the world's cotton market, a most important factor in relation to the purchasing capacity of the native population of Uganda and of the Nyanza Province of Kenya. The fall in the price of cotton and the shortage in the yield of the maize crop together with a drop in soda exports have

had an adverse effect on the import and export trade of the territories, while the industrial unrest in the United Kingdom throughout the year, beginning with the general strike in May, also contributed to the decrease.

Despite these handicaps and the fact that importers generally must of necessity hold large and varied stocks of merchandise in anticipation of trade demands resulting from the disposal of crops, the trade balance of Kenya and Uganda continued to be not unfavourable, relative particulars being as follows :—

	£	£
Total imports	9,071,317	
Less value of Government imports	1,390,740	
Total trade imports (including goods imported during the year and remaining in bond on 31st December, 1926)...		7,680,577
Total domestic exports	6,010,386	
Total re-exports	1,834,295	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		7,844,681
Balance in favour (or 2 per cent)		<hr/> £164,104 <hr/>

The total volume of import, export, and re-export trade, including importations on Government account, specie, and transit and trans-shipment traffic, was valued at £17,208,483, as against £22,228,380 in 1925, a decrease of 23 per cent. Of this total, goods imported and cleared for home consumption represented £7,440,649, as compared with clearances valued at £8,061,448 in 1925, the value of domestic produce of the two territories exported during the year being £6,010,386, as against £7,821,844 in the previous year. It should be noted that in cotton exports alone there was a decrease in value of £1,637,399.

As regards the distribution of foreign trade between Kenya and Uganda respectively, a close analysis shows that foreign trade goods imported into Uganda and cleared for home consumption in that territory amounted in value to £1,964,174, as compared with total clearances for home consumption in both territories valued at £7,440,649. The origin of domestic produce exported during the year was in the following proportion: Uganda £3,596,045, Kenya £2,413,341, as against £5,097,215 and £2,724,629 respectively in 1925. As trade statistics are based on the landed value at the port of importation in the case of imports and the f.o.b. value at the port of shipment in the case of exports, the port for both territories being Mombasa, the actual trade balances of each country cannot be ascertained with any degree of exactitude, but it is obvious that quite apart from the wealth derived from the exportation of its own produce the Colony and Protectorate

of Kenya reaps a very considerable benefit by the transportation through the territory of goods valued at approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ millions sterling in respect of Uganda traffic and approximately £1,300,000 in respect of Tanganyika Territory traffic, goods to the value of £52,194 being imported in transit to Tanganyika Territory via Mombasa and goods to the value of £1,250,000 being exported from Tanganyika Territory via Mombasa.

The estimated Customs revenue for the year was £1,120,000, or £120,000 in excess of the amount estimated for 1925. Actual net revenue amounted to £1,150,593, a decrease of £42,327 as compared with 1925 collections, but an increase of £30,593 over the original estimate. Of the total amount collected, £737,657 accrued to Kenya and £412,936 to Uganda. In addition, excise duty collected on beer brewed in Kenya amounted to £1,115, as against £733 in 1925 and £426 in 1924.

Imports.

Of the total value of trade imports the British Empire provided 67.73 per cent. (Great Britain 37.12 per cent., British Possessions 30.61 per cent.) and foreign countries 32.27 per cent., this proportion being approximately the same as in the previous year.

Cotton Piece Goods.—The value of trade imports of cotton piece goods of all descriptions amounted to £1,145,324, the total amount of duty collected thereon being £227,633. Imports into Uganda were valued at £599,687, or 55 per cent. of combined imports of this commodity, and it is estimated that fully 75 per cent. of these imports are consumed by the native population.

The cotton piece goods market continues to be a valuable one, but compared with the total trade imports its relative importance is diminishing, the proportion during 1926 being 15 per cent. as compared with 20 per cent. in 1925 and 23.6 per cent. in 1924. Imports generally show a decrease on the previous year's figures, but this is accounted for by the drop in the output of the Uganda cotton crop and its effect on the spending power of the native population. Cotton piece goods of all classes are mainly supplied by Great Britain, Japan, Holland, and India.

Vehicles.—Motor-cars to the number of 1,403 and of a value of £250,453 were imported during the year, the principal sources of supply being the United States of America 61 per cent., Canada 18 per cent., and Great Britain 13 per cent. 1,135 motor-lorries and tractors were imported, valued at £224,949. 61 per cent. originated in the United States of America, 20 per cent. in Canada, and 10 per cent. in Great Britain.

As was anticipated, the abnormal importations of 1925 have not been continued, but additions to and improvements in the road mileage available for motor transport together with increased

agricultural development in Kenya should create a steady demand for the future. Figures relating to the importation of motor-cycles, side-cars, and tri-cars are 602, valued at £25,377, 91 per cent. of the total imports originating in Great Britain.

11,629 bicycles, valued at £94,100, were imported during the year, mainly from Great Britain, comparative figures for 1925 being 23,938 machines valued at £185,024.

The decrease in imports is mainly accounted for by the falling off in the demand for bicycles in Uganda. These machines are imported principally for native trade.

Oils.—As a natural result of the abnormal importations of motor vehicles in 1925 and owing to the continued extension of motor transport facilities and to the increased use of power-driven agricultural and industrial machinery, there has been a steady advance in the importation of fuel oils. 2,570,493 gallons of motor spirit, valued at £158,958, were imported during the year, this being an increase of 591,434 gallons as compared with 1925.

The quantity of kerosene imported amounted to 1,712,266 gallons, as against 1,483,106 gallons in 1925.

Importations of heavy fuel-oils amounted to 5,731,483 gallons, as compared with 8,217,403 gallons in 1925. The bulk of this oil is imported either for subsequent re-exportation as fuel for vessels using the port of Mombasa or for the use of the Kenya and Uganda Railway. The decrease in quantity is accounted for by the diversion from the East Coast route of oil-driven vessels during the coal strike in the United Kingdom.

The importation of oils is principally in the hands of three companies, viz., the British Imperial Oil Co., the Vacuum Oil Co., and the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. Heavy fuel-oil is imported in bulk, and the British Imperial Oil Co. handle bulk imports of petrol and kerosene at their oil installation at Shimanzi, to which considerable extensions have been made during the year.

Machinery.—During the year importations of industrial machinery amounted in value to £134,467, and agricultural machinery imports were valued at £88,372. The total value of machinery of all descriptions imported was £300,592, or a decrease of £81,695 as compared with 1925 figures. It should be observed, however, that importations of agricultural machinery as against those of 1925 show an increase in value of £17,609, an indication that additional areas of land are under mechanical cultivation.

Wheat Meal and Flour.—The continued expansion of the local flour-milling industry has not prevented an increase in importations, which amounted to 58,257 cwt., valued at £57,929, as compared with the previous year's figures of 53,557 cwt., valued at £56,364.

Rice.—The markets of Kenya and Uganda provide a valuable outlet for the exportable surplus of rice produced in Tanganyika Territory. Imports amounted to 142,153 cwt., valued at £145,241, and 48.6 per cent. of this quantity originated in Tanganyika Territory. The quantity imported in 1925 was 147,505 cwt., and the decrease in 1926 importations reflects increased rice production in Kenya.

Tea.—Fairly extensive areas are under cultivation, and drying plant and machinery are in course of installation. Tea imports during the year were 6,901 cwt., valued at £72,761, approximately the same figures as for 1925.

Sugar.—Locally-manufactured sugar to the amount of 23,839 cwt. was exported during the year, and supplies have been available for consumption in Kenya and Uganda. Imports of sugar amounted to 19,567 cwt., valued at £20,865, as against the 1925 figures of 27,161 cwt., valued at £32,475. It is hoped that in the near future supplies of sugar for the East African Dependencies will be drawn from the locally-grown product.

Salt.—Advantage has not been taken of the facilities afforded by Government for the local production of salt in the Kenya coastal area. Imports during the year show a substantial increase, the comparative figures being as follows :—

					cwt.	£
1925	...	...	...	...	146,616	20,065
1926	...	...	...	...	177,354	24,579

Re-Exports, Transit, and Transhipment.

The entrepôt trade of Mombasa, including transit and transhipment traffic, is of considerable and continually growing importance, as, apart from the dock and transport facilities available, the geographical situation in relation to neighbouring territories is favourable to the holding of stocks of all varieties of goods, either in bond or duty paid, for sale as opportunity offers in the markets of Zanzibar, Tanganyika Territory, Italian East Africa, and the Belgian Congo. The following are the comparative figures for the years 1925 and 1926 :—

				1925.	1926.
				£	£
Re-exports	...	...	...	1,477,576	1,591,671
Transit	...	...	...	141,081	120,861
Transhipment	...	...	...	165,767	171,624

Exports.

General.—The export trade of Kenya and Uganda consists mainly of agricultural products. Although an uneven distribution of rainfall reduced the anticipated yield of produce in certain areas.

steady development can be recorded except in the case of the export of cotton from Uganda. The output of this commodity has been affected by adverse market conditions. A very large proportion of the local produce exported is shipped to Empire markets, 75.7 per cent. being sent to destinations in the British Empire as compared with 84.2 per cent. in 1925. An increase has taken place in shipments to Japan, the percentage figure in 1926 being 7.8 as against 2.1 in 1925. This is explained by the fact that direct shipments to Japan have to a large extent replaced the previous procedure of forwarding produce via Bombay for subsequent transhipment.

Cotton.—Notwithstanding a decrease in quantity from 785,849 centals in 1925 to 724,699 centals in 1926 together with a drop in the market price, this commodity heads the list of domestic exports with a value of £3,056,940, or 50.8 per cent. of the total exports, as against £4,694,339, or 60 per cent., in 1925. 723,438 centals originated in Uganda and 1,261 centals in Kenya. The export of cotton seed amounted to 35,365 tons.

Coffee.—The adverse weather conditions prevalent towards the end of 1925 account for a decrease in the quantity exported during the year, which amounted to 174,131 cwt., valued at £895,080 as compared with 177,141 cwt., valued at £963,920, in 1925. Great Britain continued to be the principal market for this product.

Sisal.—Production has continued to increase in the sisal fibre industry, and 14,928 tons, valued at £579,499, were exported during the year as compared with 14,363 tons, valued at £531,129, in 1925.

Maize.—Adverse weather conditions have resulted in a reduction in the quantity exported during the year, comparative figures being 929,178 cwt., valued at £280,596, for 1926 as against 1,219,076 cwt., valued at £416,964, for 1925.

Hides and Skins.—The value of hides and skins exported during the year was £272,327, as compared with £358,953 in 1925. The principal sources of supply are the Native Reserves.

Agriculture.

The rainfall was generally above normal and on the whole it was a favourable season, although in some districts crops suffered from an excess of rain. The yields of maize were high in most districts, though disappointing in one or two on account of weather conditions.

In the Native Reserves fears were entertained for a time in regard to food supplies, but except in the eastern part of North Kavirondo crops were sufficient to ensure the sustenance of the people until the new seasons' plantings were well advanced.

Market prices of some agricultural exports fell slightly towards the latter half of the year, notably in the case of maize, coffee, cotton, and sisal, making it more than ever necessary that the costs of production should be closely watched. Greater attention is being paid to economy in labour and methods and to timely operations on the land in order to secure the best returns.

Increasing attention is being given to the use of agricultural tractors, power machinery and labour-saving implements and appliances.

The apprehension indicated last year on account of insufficiency of labour has been removed to an appreciable degree. African labourers have been offering their services in increasing numbers and it cannot be said, except in rare cases, that production and development suffered through an insufficiency of unskilled labour. The average number of labourers employed monthly during the agricultural census year from 1st August, 1925, to 31st July, 1926, was 6,084, or 7.75 per cent. more than that of the previous census year.

Towards the end of 1926 the cold storage plant at Kilindini was put into commission, but demands on the part of the public for space are at present small.

Mr. A. D. Lewis, Director of Irrigation in the Union of South Africa, who visited Kenya at the end of 1925, presented a comprehensive report upon the position in regard to irrigation and water supply. Mr. Lewis came to the conclusion that "the immediate possibilities of an extensive irrigation scheme in the country are exceedingly poor," but he considered that "there is a reasonable prospect of finding water by boring over large areas of the country in sufficient quantities to establish water centres for stock purposes and at smaller cost than in any other way." Four boring machines have been ordered and the unalienated area from Sultan Hamud to Makindu has been selected as the area in which work should start with a view to running in the machines and to training the operators to local conditions.

Professor Sir Rowland Biffen, the eminent English wheat-breeder, made an extensive tour of the wheat-growing districts to advise upon the wheat industry, with particular reference to plant-breeding services. He reported very hopefully on the industry, which has been greatly stimulated as a result of Professor Biffen's visit. Steps have been taken to extend plant-breeding services and to open a plant-breeding station for wheat at Njoro.

At the instance of the Committee of Civil Research, Dr. J. B. Orr, Head of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, visited Kenya with a view to examining the prospects for research work in connection with malnutrition and deficiency diseases. Experiments have been begun at four centres upon the feeding of cattle and sheep.

The number of European holdings under occupation increased from 1,695 in 1925 to 1,809 in 1926. An endeavour was made in the compilation of the Agricultural Census for 1926 to ascertain the total number of Europeans engaged on agricultural undertakings. The returns indicate that 2,324 Europeans are so engaged.

The total area cultivated on European farms advanced from an average of 232 acres per occupier in 1925 to 256 acres per occupier in 1926. In 1921 the figure was 154 acres per occupier. Including the development through live stock on a basis of six acres per head for cattle and three acres per head for small stock, the average development by each European holding is 1,311 acres, a total of 2,370,000 acres out of an occupied farm area of 4,588,000 acres.

The following are the main crops produced on European holdings :—

Maize.—The acreage under maize increased by 24 per cent. in the year to 193,187 acres (some of this increase is accounted for by the alteration of the date of the census return figures from the end of June to the end of July). The average yield of maize over the whole country is about six bags per acre. Greater interest is being taken in the maintenance of soil fertility by means of the application of manures and the introduction of rotations including green manures. 542,852 bags of maize were offered for grading during the year. It is estimated that 22 per cent. of this maize emanated from native sources. An innovation was introduced in the bulk shipment of maize. Maize from 69,000 bags was shipped in bulk. 106,000 bags of maize were conditioned during the year, and the conditioning plant had to be worked at very high pressure during the last quarter.

Coffee.—The season was, on the whole, good, especially in the largest coffee-producing areas. The acreage under coffee increased from 65,140 acres in 1924-25 to 68,950 acres in 1925-26, and the quantity exported was 5,757 cwt. in excess of that for 1924-25, showing an increase in export value from £723,180 in 1924-25 to £747,453 in 1925-26. The coffee industry provides nearly one-third of the total agricultural exports from the Colony. Thirty-nine per cent. of the European occupiers are coffee planters.

The production of coffee has not increased in proportion to the increase of acreage coming into bearing. This may be accounted for by the facts that on some estates a proportion of the crop was lost through shortage of labour, that many acres are not being properly pruned, and that large areas have been stumped and these are non-productive for two years afterwards.

It was decided to carry out trials of "Robusta" types of coffee as well as "Liberica" along the coast in co-operation with planters, and numbers of plants of each type were secured for trial purposes from the Amani Institute.

Sisal.—The acreage under sisal has been increased by 14 per cent. to 60,197 acres. This industry is in a flourishing condition. Three-fifths of the sisal planted is more than three years old and available for cutting. The exports increased from 287,260 cwt. in 1925 to 294,568 cwt., valued at £579,499, in 1926.

Wheat.—The area put under wheat more than doubled between 1925 and 1926. 80,069 bags were harvested in 1925-26, as compared with 61,067 bags in the previous year. Though good yields are obtained in individual cases, the average still remains low. The advantage possessed by wheat in respect of ease of handling and low labour requirements, and the comparatively high prices realised, have greatly stimulated wheat production. Continued progress for another year or two should enable the acreage of wheat planted to satisfy the needs of Kenya and neighbouring territories in respect of wheat and wheat flour. A Wheat Growers' Association was formed during the year. Important work was done in the raising of rust-resistant wheats possessing high yield and good milling qualities. Substantial progress has been made, and it is expected that within a few years the industry will be placed in a more secure position. Eight mills are in operation and 63,511 bags of wheat were milled during the year.

Other Crops.—Large increases are recorded in the area put under barley and tea. The production of sugar is steadily increasing. There was a decrease in the export of copra owing to the greater extent to which copra is used locally for the manufacture of soap.

Native Agriculture.

Mass issues of seed have been made and these seed issues are making their influence felt in native crops, though in some cases irregular use is made of it and there is some wastage. Progress in the use of labour-saving appliances has been noticeable, particularly in the Nyanza province. In that province, 87 ploughs, 227 grist mills, and 23 sets of millstones were procured in 1926 by the more intelligent natives. Some progress has also been made in Kikuyu province in the provision of lorries and ox-carts for the transport of produce to rail and market. There is great scope for the economic and profitable use of implements and transport vehicles in native reserves, but the natives themselves appear to be slow to take advantage of them.

Maize.—The main issue of seed of "Flat White" maize was made in North Kavirondo in order to introduce a good type of maize in an extensive area to be served by the new railway to Uganda. Considerable quantities of maize were exported from Kikuyu country on the new Nyeri Railway. On account of the wet season in both Kikuyu and Kavirondo country, maize from these areas possessed a high moisture content in excess of the limit for

export purposes and, with attendant risks of rejection and costs of conditioning, buyers offered lower prices to the native producer. On the coast, issues were made in the Digo and Kilifi districts and good yields were reported.

Cotton.—Great dissatisfaction with the prices paid in 1925 was shown by the native growers, and as a result a much smaller acreage was planted in 1926. Yields were poor owing largely to the general indifference shown by the natives towards this crop.

Sim-Sim.—The acreage under this crop is increasing, particularly in parts of Kavirondo, where it is tending to displace cotton. It is well suited to native agricultural practice and has the added merit of being useful as food. Issues of seed were also made at the coast and the results are promising.

General.—The cultivation of buckwheat is being seriously undertaken. It has proved suitable in the drier areas, and on account of its rapid growth and utility for food purposes it is a valuable crop when famine conditions are threatened. Good yields were obtained from a ton of rice seed distributed in North Kavirondo and an increased acreage was put under rice in the Kilifi area on the coast.

Seven Native Agricultural Shows were held, two in Nyanza, one in Kikuyu, one in Ukamba, and three in coast districts. A marked improvement in the quality of the exhibits was again noticed and, though the average number of exhibits was lower than last year, this was almost entirely due to the elimination of poor exhibits.

Live Stock.—It is estimated that stock in the possession of natives, other than those on European holdings, includes :—

Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,250,000
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,550,000
Goats	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,550,000
Donkeys	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,000
Camels	...	...	...	...	...	...	160,000

The abnormally high prices realised for cattle in 1925, both for slaughter and draught purposes, were not maintained. Natives are taking advantage of facilities afforded for the protection of their cattle against rinderpest and pleuro-pneumonia. The results of veterinary work at stations in native reserves, to which native owners bring their cattle for inoculation, continue to be encouraging.

Instruction in the preparation of hides and skins has been systematically undertaken with great success at one important centre in the Kavirondo Reserve.

Centres have been established for the manufacture of ghee.

A schedule showing the estimated value of the principal agricultural exports of native origin appears as Appendix II to this report.

European Live Stock Industry.

There was a decrease of 1.46 per cent. in the total number of cattle for 1926, there being a drop of nearly 5,000 head in "breeding stock." Importations of pure-bred cattle fell from 164 head in 1925 to 52 head in 1926. Of the 52 head imported, 45 were bulls and seven were cows and heifers. There was an increase of nearly 16 per cent. in the number of wool-bearing sheep and the export of wool has grown from 4,948 cwt. in 1925 to 7,454 cwt., valued at £62,450, in 1926. There has been a small increase in pigs and a substantial increase in poultry.

Agricultural Shows.

In addition to the Native Agricultural Shows, two successful shows were held at Nakuru in January and December under the auspices of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

Agricultural Conferences.

The first South and East African Agricultural Conference assembled in Nairobi during August and was attended by delegates from all British South and East African territories, and from Portuguese East Africa, Mozambique, the Belgian Congo, and Italian Somaliland.

Financial.

The net cost of services rendered by the Agricultural Department, including the Veterinary and Veterinary Research Divisions, was £73,370; the revenue derived from inoculations against rinderpest and similar services amounted to £25,320.

V.—LAND.

The total area of land alienated as at the 31st December, 1926, was 6,005,774 acres, as compared with 5,745,607 acres on the 31st December, 1925. 516,175 acres are freehold and 5,489,599 acres leasehold.

The area of grants registered during the year was 332,684 acres, compared with 317,258 acres for the previous year, and the area of surrenders was 72,516 acres.

Two auctions of farms were held at which 34,626 acres realised the sum of £15,588.

Sales of township plots were held at Kibwezi, Nanyuki, Nyeri, Nakuru, and Nairobi.

The revenue derived from sales and rents of land, survey fees, sale of maps, &c., amounted to £104,632.

The area of the 337 sub-divisional surveys submitted during the year by licensed surveyors was 127,900 acres, compared with 292,848 acres in 1925 and 216,421 in 1924.

This marked falling off is not due to a lack of contemplated schemes of sub-division but rather to a temporary shortage of surveyors, many of whom were engaged on the Mombasa Town Planning Scheme for the latter half of the year.

During the year under review the Trans-Nzoia and Uasin Gishu districts formed the main fields of activity, whilst in other parts closer settlement seems generally to follow the new railway routes.

The descriptions of the boundaries of native reserves were published in a special issue of the *Official Gazette* on 13th October, 1926.

Registration transactions during the year totalled 14,137, as against 12,595 for 1925. The revenue derived from registration fees, stamp duties, and conveyancing fees amounted to £59,556, as compared with £57,380 in the previous year.

Mines.

Twenty-one prospecting licences were issued and nine claims registered in Nairobi, as apart from those issued in the various districts.

Forests.

The quantity of forest produce disposed of, the cash revenue, and the number of seedling trees raised and the acreages reafforested all showed large increases over the corresponding figures of any previous year.

During the year the Mount Elgon and Elgeyo-Marakwet forests, totalling approximately 286,000 acres, were finally demarcated and proclaimed as Forest Reserves.

The total area of Forest Reserves is estimated to be 2,503,250 acres. In addition there remain one large forest on Crown land and considerable areas in the Masai, Nandi, and Marakwet Native Reserves still to be demarcated. The area of these may be estimated at 500,000 acres, making a total for the Colony's forest areas of approximately three million acres. Of this area, the potential timber-producing area is estimated to total 1,850,000 acres, the remaining area comprising rock and moorland, summits of the mountains, bamboo and grass glades.

In the established Forest Reserves the area carrying merchantable stands of timber, apart from the question of accessibility, is estimated at 742,000 acres. Of this area, approximately 198,000 acres are subject to existing saw-milling licences.

The local demand for timber continued to be very active and was more satisfactorily met by the saw-millers than in the previous year. The total quantity sold from the Forest Reserves amounted to 1,316,566 cubic feet, an increase of 44 per cent. over the figure for 1925.

The prices of timber remained steady at about the level of the previous year. The average selling prices in Nairobi for sawn timber per ton were :—cedar Sh.240/-, podocarpus Sh.198/-, and camphor Sh.480/-.

Exports amounted to 97,105 cubic feet of timber and 378,600 mangrove poles. The figures for 1925 were 69,425 cubic feet and 638,300 poles. In addition, there is a large and increasing export of Kenya timber to Uganda.

Imports for Kenya and Uganda amounted to 283,000 cubic feet, compared with 206,000 cubic feet the previous year. Of the total import, 133,000 cubic feet were for Government use.

Most local timber is still used in a very green condition. During the year, the Government obtained the advice of the South African Government timber seasoning expert, and as a result of his recommendations work was started on the construction of seasoning kilns for the purpose of seasoning timber required for Government use.

The export of cedar for pencil manufacture did not make the material progress that had been hoped for. Enquiries, however, became more numerous towards the end of the year, especially from Europe, India, and the United States. Firms which formerly rejected the wood are finding that after proper seasoning it is entirely suitable.

The quantity of firewood sold from the Forest Reserves was 5,207,400 cubic feet, an increase of 52 per cent. over the total for the previous year. The Railway Administration used 10,472,600 cubic feet, of which 36 per cent. was supplied from the Forest Reserves as compared with 17 per cent. in 1925.

Mangrove bark suffered a slump during the year, only 189 tons being exported owing to a fall in the demand in Europe. The export of gum copal increased from 25,900 lb. to 38,500 lb. The collection of wild rubber from landolphia vines was greatly stimulated by the rise in prices. Little or none had been collected for many years. The royalty was reduced to ten cents of a shilling per lb., and during the year 28,400 lb. were exported.

Experiments were continued with the cultivation of cascara and chaulmoogra oil yielding trees. The latter proved difficult to propagate. Reports from the Imperial Institute proved that the medicinal properties of the Kenya-grown cascara bark were quite satisfactory.

There were no serious forest fires during the year, though a large quantity of stacked fuel was destroyed by a fire on a fuel area.

The area planted was 3,047 acres. The largest area previously planted in any one year was 2,177 acres. The increase is amply sufficient to replace the timber and fuel cut during the year, but

the planting of at least 5,000 acres annually is considered necessary to satisfy timber requirements of the future, with a margin for export.

The planted area was made up as follows :—

	Acres.
Pencil cedar	860
Other indigenous timber species	276
Exotic timber species	274
Fuel plantations	1,195
Mangroves	442

Thirty-nine nurseries were maintained and 4,183,000 plants were raised, an increase of 110,000 over the figures for 1925. A nursery was opened in Kitale township for the sale of plants to the public and with a view to the formation of a large plantation there. The number of trees sold was 472,000, compared with 245,000 the previous year. Approximately four tons three cwt. of seeds were collected, including a large quantity of eucalyptus seed, though the bulk of the requirements of the latter still has to be purchased abroad.

The demarcation of the Mount Elgon, Elgeyo, and Meru forests was completed and the first two were proclaimed as Forest Reserves.

Detailed interior surveys were made and maps prepared of the Kikuyu, South Ngong, Ol Bolossat, and portions of the East Mau, Solai, South-West Mau forests, totalling approximately 136,000 acres on a scale of 1:25,000 or larger. In addition, many reconnaissance surveys were made and also a detailed plan of the Ngomeni mangrove swamps (8,400 acres).

Large numbers of herbarium specimens of the forest flora were sent to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford, for identification. Specimens of the local timbers were sent to the Forest Products Research Laboratory of the Imperial Forestry Institute, from whom slides and micro-photographs were obtained. To test rates of growth of different species under different conditions, 52 permanent sample plots were laid out in plantations and natural forest.

Forestry in Native Reserves.

There appears to be an awakening of interest by many Native Councils regarding afforestation in their Reserves. In the Machakos Reserve 260 acres were successfully planted by the Forest Department, in addition to considerable areas planted by the Local Native Council. In Meru and Elgeyo the forests were managed by the Forest Department and the net revenue paid into native funds. In the Nyanza province the Administration made strong efforts to encourage planting in each Reserve. It has not as yet been possible to bring the Masai and Nandi forests under any form of management.

Financial.

The cash revenue was £36,938, compared with £25,457 in the previous year.

The expenditure was £29,125, compared with £27,925 in 1925. The revenue was 45 per cent. greater than in any previous year. All revenue heads showed an increase, but the largest was that of timber sales, which increased from £17,747 to £24,635. An appreciable portion of the revenue was produced by plantations made within the life-time of the Forest Department, and such plantations are becoming increasingly remunerative each year.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

The first Revised Edition of the Laws of Kenya was brought into operation on the 1st July, 1926.

Thirty-four Ordinances were assented to during the year, of which the following are the most important:—

1. *The Bankruptcy Ordinance (No. 1 of 1926).*—This Ordinance repeals the application to the Colony of the Indian Provincial Insolvency Act, 1907. The Ordinance closely follows the Imperial Statute, 4 and 5 Geo. V. Ch. 59.

2. *The Game Birds Protection Ordinance (No. 8 of 1926).*—The Schedule to the Ordinance contains lists of birds which may not be killed or captured without a Bird Licence or without a special licence. Close seasons may be proclaimed in regard to the whole or any specified part of the Colony. The sale of game birds dead or alive is forbidden. The snaring of game birds or taking their eggs without permission of the Game Warden is prohibited.

3. *The Estate Duty (Consolidation) Ordinance (No. 13 of 1926).*—Estate duty is payable on the deceased's immovable property situate in the Colony, and, in case deceased was domiciled in the Colony, on the movable property wherever situate. A rebate is allowed in respect of duty paid in the United Kingdom or a British possession on property there situate passing on the same death. No probate or letters of administration are to issue until the requirements of the Ordinance have been complied with.

4. *The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15 of 1926).*—Provides that rape shall be punishable with death or with imprisonment for life or for a term not less than three years. A fine may also be imposed.

5. *The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance (No. 16 of 1926).*—Closely follows 14 and 15 Geo. V. Ch. 22.

6. *The Customs Management Ordinance (No. 25 of 1926).*—The provisions of the Ordinance follow closely similar legislation in other countries and particularly the Tanganyika Territory Customs

Ordinance, 1922. Powers are conferred upon the Governor-in-Council to enter into agreement with the Government of any territory in Eastern Africa being a portion of the British dominions or a protectorate or a mandated territory for free trade between Kenya and the territory in the products of each.

7. *The Custody of Children Ordinance (No. 27 of 1926).*—Provides that when a parent has abandoned a child the Court may refuse the parent's application for a writ for the production of the child. Where a child is being brought up by another person the Court may, if it orders the child to be given up to the parent, further order the parent to pay to that person the costs properly incurred in bringing up the child. A parent who has abandoned his child or allowed him to be brought up by another person at that person's expense must satisfy the Court that having regard to the welfare of the child he is a fit person to have the custody of the child. Where a parent has been convicted of certain offences in respect of the child the Court may order the child to be taken out of his custody. The Ordinance is based mainly on the Imperial Custody of Children Act, 1891.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Government schools have been established for the provision of education of European, Indian, Arab, and African children. Private and missionary enterprise supplements State institutions; the latter is largely subsidised from Government funds.

The Administration was strengthened during the year by the addition of a Superintendent of Technical Education and three Inspectors of Schools. The work of these officers has been concerned mainly with Arab and African education, but they have also been used as occasion required in respect of European and Indian schools. Their appointment has enabled the Department to begin an educational survey of the Colony and the division of districts into school sectors on the lines of the organisation adopted in New Zealand and other Dominions. Initial work in this direction was done in the Kyambu area of the Kikuyu Native Reserve, and investigations have been made in the Digo district on the coast.

The Central Advisory Committees have met regularly and have given useful advice.

European Education.

There are Government schools at Nairobi, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kitale, Nanyuki, and Thika. During the year, money was voted from loan funds for the erection of improved and extended school accommodation at the first four of these centres and also for the establishment of a Boys' Secondary School at Kabete. Building on the Junior High School, Nairobi, began during the year.

Private schools, notably Kenton College for boys and Loreto Convent for girls, maintain a high standard of attendance and attainment. There are seven rural schools on farms in the Uasin Gishu, six of which are supported by State funds, while one is State-aided.

The average number of European children in attendance at all European schools during the year was 909. Of these, 604 were at Government schools, 97 at State-aided schools, and 208 at private schools.

The cost of European education, exclusive of administration expenses and the cost of buildings, totalled £24,824 in 1926.

Indian Education.

There are Government schools at Nairobi, Mombasa, Lamu, and Kisumu, and thirteen assisted schools. During the year, money was voted from loan funds for the erection of improved and extended accommodation for the Nairobi Indian school. The erection of this school, which is estimated to cost £60,000, will, it is hoped, begin before the end of 1927.

The average number of Indian children in attendance at all Indian schools during the year was 1,947. Of these, 1,020 were at Government schools, 708 at State-aided schools, and 219 at private schools.

The cost of Indian education, exclusive of administration expenses, in 1926 totalled £14,470.

Arab Education.

Arab schools are established at Mombasa, Malindi, and Mamburi. The average attendance in 1926 was 393.

African Education.

Government schools exist at Kabete, Waa, Nandi, Kericho, Machakos, Narok, and there is a Jeanes School at Kabete for the training of supervisors of African village schools. Schools are maintained by all the principal missionary societies. There are also Police schools in many important centres and large numbers of village schools situated throughout the native reserves.

The average attendance in Government schools during 1926 totalled 1,296. Attendance at the Native Industrial Training Depot at Kabete rose from 82 to 140 during the course of the year. The average attendance in African assisted schools and in private schools, the majority of which are village schools, totalled 53,025. No accurate comparative figure for 1925 is available. That for 1924 was 21,539.

During the year the Alliance High School at Kikuyu was opened for the higher education of Africans with a view to training them for the more abstract work of professional and commercial life.

The cost of Arab and African education, exclusive of administration expenses, during 1926 totalled £53,418.

VIII.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railways and Marine.

During the year, the High Commissionership for Transport was established, the office of High Commissioner being held by the Officer Administering the Government of Kenya. The Inter-Colonial Railway Council held five meetings during 1926; three in Kenya and two in Uganda.

Earnings for the year amounted to £2,058,710, and the ordinary working expenditure to £1,216,773, the surplus of receipts over ordinary working expenditure being £841,937. After allowing for contributions to renewals funds, interest charges, &c., the net surplus of this excess for transfer to betterment funds amounted to £207,795.

The carriage of public goods provided a revenue of £1,614,399, and the tonnage of this traffic amounted to 573,282 tons, as compared with £1,580,642 and 534,474 tons during the previous year. The revenue derived from passenger traffic also showed an increase over that of 1925, viz., in 1926 991,753 passengers contributed a revenue of £255,511 as against 913,640 passengers and £225,548 in 1925.

Natives continued to use the railway in increasing numbers. Some difficulty was experienced in providing sufficient rolling-stock for third-class passengers owing to delays in delivery of new stock, brought about by the coal strike. Motor-car competition continues to reduce the number of short passenger journeys. The following figures show the number of passengers carried under different classes :—

			<i>1st Class.</i>	<i>2nd Class.</i>	<i>3rd Class.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1925	...	...	16,745	57,530	839,365	913,640
1926	...	...	19,272	62,347	910,134	991,753

The tonnage carried by lake-steamer services showed a small decrease, from 197,629 tons in 1925 to 195,830 tons in 1926.

The total tonnage carried by the motor service was 7,915 tons in 1926, as compared with 6,757 tons in 1925.

There was an improvement in the supply of wood fuel as compared with 1925. Reliable forest areas have been obtained in the

Nairobi-Kisumu section, and it is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty in obtaining the total fuel requirements in that area for some years. The following figures show the consumption of coal, wood, and oil fuel during the year :—

					1926.	1925.
					<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Coal	...	...	...	...	40,989	51,536
Wood	...	...	...	...	91,252	81,056
Oil	...	...	...	...	7,281	9,073

Relaying of the main line with 80-lb. material has been completed from the coast to Makindu, with the exception of Mombasa Island and one or two loops at wayside stations. The latter works were delayed by non-receipt of material owing to the coal strike in England. The work of strengthening bridges and culverts to carry engines with 18-ton axle-loads has progressed satisfactorily.

Rails have been renewed throughout the line as required. Heavy work has been carried out between Nakuru and the Lake, and the renewal programme on the Kisumu section has been completed. Two new diversions of about a mile long were completed and opened for traffic between Magadi Junction and Athi River. These diversions, together with the regrades previously completed, leave a ruling grade of 1.18 per cent. compensated from Nairobi to Kilindini.

The total route mileage of line open at the close of the year was 1,128, excluding loops and industrial sidings. On the Thika-Nyeri branch the section Punda Mlia to Sagana was handed over for open-line working during the year. It was decided to make Narro Moru, sixteen miles beyond Nyeri, the terminus for the present of this branch. The completed branch lines to Solai and Kitale were taken over on the 1st July, 1926. Considerable delay took place at the Turbo end of the Uganda extension owing to the failure of certain earthwork contractors to complete their contracts by the specified dates, but towards the end of the year platelaying proceeded more rapidly and the girders over the Malaba River on the Kenya and Uganda border were launched before Christmas. The section from Turbo to Malaba was opened for the carriage of goods traffic, under construction arrangements, on the 15th January, 1927. Railhead reached Tororo towards the end of January, 1927. The section in Uganda from Mbulamuti to the Mpolozoma Swamp was opened for traffic, under construction arrangements, on the 1st January, 1927.

The cost of the Uasin Gishu Railway has now reached the figure of £2,375,763, or £16,731 per mile.

At the end of the year the following lines were under construction :—

	<i>Miles.</i>
<i>Kenya</i> .—Thika extension	48
Uganda extension—Turbo to Uganda Border...	79
<i>Uganda</i> .—Uganda extension—Kenya Border to Mbulamuti	106
Total	233

Further surveys and reconnaissances were carried out to ascertain the merits of future branch lines towards productive areas. These include a survey from Tororo through Mbale to Soroti, surveys for alternative routes to Kampala, a survey from Kampala westwards towards Bombo, and a survey of the proposed North Kavirondo branch line.

The figures for 1926 indicate that the progress made in 1925 has been well maintained. Traffic has moved smoothly and rapidly over the whole system. No difficulties are anticipated during the present year. A record maize crop has been dealt with at a rate some two or three times faster than in any previous year.

Port.

Following the recommendations of the Port Commission of Inquiry, which reported in December, 1925, separate financial provision was made for Port Services by means of Port Estimates. No decision had been arrived at by the end of the year under review in regard to the control of the Port, though a decision has subsequently been reached.

For the purpose of control and management during the year 1926, the Port was declared a Railway service as a provisional arrangement in order to enable the Railway to carry on the previous system of control and responsibility. A Port Manager was appointed and steps were taken to put the Port organisation on a sound basis.

The Consulting Engineers have been engaged in preparing a report on the development of Kilindini Harbour. Work on two more deep-water berths has already begun.

Shipping.

During 1926, the Port of Mombasa was served by eight regular lines of steamers from Europe, i.e., the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Co., Ltd., the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., the Messageries Maritimes, the Italia Navigation Company, the Clan, Ellerman and Harrison Line, the Holland-East Africa Line, the Deutsche Ost Afrika Linie, and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha Line.

In addition to these services, calls were made by Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Danish and Norwegian Lines, and several miscellaneous oil and coal steamers discharged full cargoes at the Port.

A fortnightly service between Bombay and Durban, calling both ways at Mombasa, has been maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. Coastal services by this line and by Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw and Bros. steamers have been fairly regular.

The total steam tonnage (mercantile) entered in the Protectorate ports during the year amounted to 1,479,046 tons net, represented by 605 steamers. These figures show an increase of 267,217 tons and 87 steamers, as compared with figures for the previous year. In gross tonnage, the figures are: 1925, 2,025,629 tons; 1926, 2,465,244 tons. The total tonnage of sailing vessels entered in the Protectorate ports during 1926 was 76,524 tons, represented by 3,529 vessels, an increase of 16,346 tons and 508 vessels. The dhow traffic which, owing to trade depression, had slackened during previous years, shows a considerable increase.

The figures for Mombasa were 522 steamers, of 1,444,320 tons net, against 440 steamers, of 1,180,493 tons net, for 1925, an increase of 82 steamers and 263,827 tons. The tonnage of sailing vessels amounted to 34,624 tons, represented by 1,537 vessels, an increase of 10,249 tons and 257 vessels over the previous year.

Revenue derived from port dues amounted to £11,204, an increase of £621 over the previous year. Corresponding increases have resulted also in light dues and pilotage fees. The increases in these dues are the result of the steady increase in tonnage and in the number of ships visiting the Port of Mombasa.

Approximately 635,000 shipping tons of cargo (368,588 tons inwards and 266,140 tons outwards) were dealt with, and 40,579 passengers passed through the Port of Mombasa during 1926.

The first steamer to be berthed at the new quay was the S.S. "Clan Mackenzie" on the 28th July, 1926. This was done for the purpose of landing heavy locomotives. The S.S. "Rietfontein," berthing at the quay on the 29th August, 1926, was the first ship brought alongside for discharging cargo. Since that date the two berths have been in almost constant use, both for passenger and cargo steamers.

Roads.

Excluding the roads in Nairobi township, which are under the Nairobi Municipality, the total expenditure during 1926 on the construction of new roads and bridges of importance was £27,285, and the sum spent on the maintenance and improvement of the existing road system, inclusive of the opening up of new tracks of minor importance, was £96,489.

Of the latter sum, £10,851 were expended on township roads; £49,890 on main roads in European and native areas; £18,121 on district roads in European areas; £5,988 on native reserve roads; £3,395 on unclassified tracks; and £8,244 on the repair and reconstruction of bridges.

There are approximately 4,240 miles of main and district roads of importance, in addition to various tracks and native reserve roads, of uncertain mileage, which are not yet of importance as traffic carriers. The average expenditure per mile on the maintenance and improvement of the main and district roads was about £17 10s., including bridge repairs and renewals.

With the exception of the streets in the more important towns and certain main country roads leading into them, the public roads of Kenya have not been provided with special wearing surfaces; they are earth roads, some of which have been drained and formed to camber; most of them are merely tracks, which are passable by wheeled vehicles with facility in dry weather, but only with difficulty during wet weather. They are equipped with bridges and culverts in widely different degrees.

Most of the work on construction, improvement, and maintenance was performed by contract with local farmers and others in European areas, and by collaboration with the Administration in native reserves. District Road Boards in settled areas gave much assistance by arranging local contracts and tendering advice.

The gradual replacement of old bridges of temporary type by structures of a more lasting type of construction was continued during the year, and the improvement of tracks by the adoption of better alignments and by forming and draining progressed. Some extension of the use of mechanical plant for forming and maintaining earth roads took place. Traffic has increased greatly with the development of the Colony and the extended use of motor vehicles.

Posts and Telegraphs.

The scheme under which the Postal and Telegraph services of Kenya and Uganda are amalgamated under the control of the Postmaster-General at Nairobi continued to work smoothly. The scheme was reviewed during the year by a small committee representative of both territories, and certain minor modifications were introduced which had for their object still greater exactitude in the allocation of revenue and expenditure between the two territories.

Although the financial result of the year's work does not reflect the same degree of expansion as in the previous year, it indicates steady progress in all branches of the department, particularly in Kenya. The following comparative statement shows the expenditure, cash revenue, and value of free services rendered to other

Government departments during the year under review and the three previous years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Expen- diture.</i>	<i>Cash Revenue.</i>	<i>Value of official free services.</i>	<i>Excess of (b) and (c) over (a).</i>	<i>Excess or Deficit of (b) over (a).</i>
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	£	£	£	£	£
1923	138,261	132,287	31,749	25,775	5,974 Deficit
1924	139,790	150,481	33,500	44,191	10,691 Excess
1925	146,309	181,435	15,696	50,822	35,126 „
1926	157,390	190,967	16,105	49,682	33,577 „

The foregoing statement does not include the value of free services performed by other Government departments for the Post Office, which are estimated at £16,415.

To the total cash revenue of £190,967, Kenya contributed £148,258 and Uganda £42,709, whilst of the total expenditure of £157,390, £110,288 was expended in Kenya and £47,102 in Uganda. Kenya revenue shows an increase of 7.1 per cent. over the previous year and recurrent expenditure an increase of 6.4 per cent. Kenya capital expenditure amounted to £5,135, as compared with £2,560 in 1925.

The estimated number of letters, postcards, book packets, and samples dealt with during the year was 11,451,700, representing an increase of 26.6 per cent. over the 1925 figures. Parcel post work showed an increase of 7 per cent. over the previous year's working, 187,856 parcels having been dealt with. The cash-on-delivery system, which is restricted to Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State, is increasing in popularity, the articles dealt with showing an increase over the previous year of 27.9 per cent. in number and 31.1 per cent. in value. An increased number of registered articles was also handled.

The value of the money-orders issued and paid in Kenya was £443,379, as compared with £480,967 in 1925, the respective figures for Uganda being £416,236 and £505,011. The decreases shown are wholly due to a falling off in the number and value of money-orders issued in Uganda for payment in Uganda and Kenya, and are attributed to the relatively poor cotton season in Uganda in 1926 as compared with that of the previous year.

The value of money orders issued on other countries rose, in Kenya from £157,391 in 1925 to £171,920 in 1926, and in Uganda from £59,348 to £72,841. Remittances to India increased from £176,979 to £210,080, or 18.7 per cent.

The total number of inland telegrams and cablegrams dealt with during the year was 395,759 and 126,285, respectively, being increases of 8.7 per cent. and 9.3 per cent. respectively over the

figures for the preceding year. Cable traffic to and from Great Britain and the Irish Free State represented 46 per cent. of the total overseas traffic. The number of telegrams transmitted over the land lines to South Africa totalled 57,701, an increase of 26.7 per cent. over the figures for 1925.

The rate of demand for telephone service in urban areas showed a tendency to increase and this, coupled with the delay which occurred in the arrival of material from England in consequence of the strike, led towards the end of the year to requests for connections to existing exchanges falling somewhat into arrear. Efforts are being made to stimulate a demand among farmers for "party telephone lines" in the country districts. Specially low subscription rates are granted in cases where farmers are prepared to co-operate with the Post Office in the erection of lines by providing wooden poles and free transport for material. The response so far has not, however, been up to expectations.

Overseas telegraph communications were, on the whole, satisfactorily maintained. Two interruptions lasting 16 days occurred in the Mombasa-Zanzibar cable. Traffic was diverted via the Mombasa and Zanzibar wireless stations and via the land lines to Dar-es-Salaam and no serious inconvenience or delay was caused.

The number of mails despatched to Great Britain totalled 71, as compared with 65 in 1925, and the number received as 79, as compared with 75. The average time of transit between Mombasa and London was 19 days homeward and 21.4 days outward, as compared with 19.5 days and 21.8 days, respectively, in 1925. The number of mails despatched to India and South Africa totalled 32 and 41, respectively, and the number received 26 and 76. Notwithstanding the fact that the number of mails despatched to and received from Great Britain averages well over one per week in each direction, the Colony still labours under the disadvantage of not having a regular mail service with Great Britain.

Engineering construction work during the year was confined almost entirely to telegraph lines required in connection with new railway branch lines and extensions.

The Post Office Savings Bank continues to show a steady development. Deposits, at £65,999, exceeded withdrawals, at £58,246, by £7,753, whilst the total number of accounts at the end of the year was 4,505, an increase of nearly 500 on the figures for 1925. The total balance due to depositors at the end of the year was £64,721, of which £6,539 stood in the names of Africans, an increase, in the case of the latter, of 38 per cent. on the previous year's balance of £4,725.

The progress made in training African telegraphists continues, on the whole, to be satisfactory. The proportion of wastage is high, but this is inevitable. It is a matter for regret, however,

that efforts made to induce educated Africans to undergo training for service in the engineering branch of the Post Office and Telegraphs Department are still proving unsuccessful.

IX.—CLIMATE.

The outstanding feature of the climatic conditions of Kenya is the very considerable daily range of temperature amounting at times to 40° Fah. and more. The relation between climatic factors and crop yields has not been scientifically investigated, but it seems probable that the great variety in Kenya agricultural produce depends largely on this factor. Steps are being taken to organise an efficient East African climatic survey which, it is hoped, will include returns from all Colonies comprising the East African Territories.

There are two rainfall areas in Kenya, separated by the Rift Valley. The eastern plateau has two centres of moderately heavy rainfall, one in the vicinity of Mount Kenya, the other between Naivasha and Nyeri on the Aberdares. The greater part of the western plateau has a rainfall of over 60 inches. Nairobi is within the rainfall contour of 30 to 40 inches.

The distribution of rainfall is being carefully analysed and the records of the various stations reduced to a standard period of twenty years—1906 to 1926.

No accurate wind directions or velocities have been secured in any part of the Colony. So far as can be judged from pilot balloon observations made since December, 1926, a calm zone exists above the surface trade wind currents at an altitude of about 2,000 metres. Above this calm zone a strong north-easterly current is observed, and it appears that the altitude at which this current is encountered varies according to the weather types which pass over the Colony. Occasionally, and for short periods, the north-east wind blows with considerable strength over the Highlands of Kenya.

Records are compiled at 209 meteorological stations, of which 134 are private stations situated in the farm areas. The following table indicates temperature and rainfall conditions at various stations :—

Station. 1926.	Shade Temperature.						Relative Humidity at 9 a.m.	Rainfall.			Latitude.	Longitude.
	Mean.		Max & Min. Combined.		Extreme.			Total Amount, 1926.	Average Fall.	Period of years.		
	Mar.	Min.	degs.	degs.	Max.	Min.						
	degs.	degs.	degs.	degs.	degs.	degs.		ins.	ins.	No.		
COAST—												
Lamu ...	83	80	81.5	90	74	87	45.94	36.93	19	2° 16' S.	40° 50' E.	
Mombasa	85	62	73.5	96	51	79	43.05	46.74	36	4° 03' S.	39° 40' E.	
HIGHLANDS—												
Fort Hall	80	54	67.0	86	50	79	52.27	46.08	26	0° 43' S.	37° 10' E.	
Kericho ...	76	49	62.5	88	41	67	89.39	74.27	14	0° 20' S.	35° 20' E.	
Limoru ...	70	52	61.0	84	41	76	54.98	54.32	19	1° 7' S.	36° 39' E.	
Lumbwa	76	53	64.5	85	40	66	51.17	41.36	8	0° 19' S.	35° 30' E.	
Machakos	81	67	74.0	90	54	74	40.19	36.43	32	1° 31' S.	37° 16' E.	
Nairobi ...	79	56	67.5	90	43	78	32.15	35.90	11	1° 17' S.	36° 50' E.	
Nyeri ...	73	54	63.5	79	44	—	22.60	24.94	13	0° 06' S.	37° 0' E.	
Ravine ...	74	48	61.0	79	35	—	59.16	47.91	4	0° 08' S.	35° 43' E.	
Lakipia...	75	42	58.5	84	31	75	41.37	37.43	5	0° 18' N.	36° 17' E.	

APPENDIX I.

Schedule showing the six Principal Exports of Kenya during 1925 and 1926.

Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	Quantity.		Value.	
		1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.
				£	£
1. Coffee	Cwt.	147,257	140,920	823,901	747,195
2. Sisal and sisal tow	Tons	14,363	14,928	531,129	579,499
3. Maize	Cwt.	1,219,076	929,178	416,964	280,596
4. Hides	Cwt.	62,064	51,631	268,057	180,423
5. Carbonate of soda	Tons	48,306	19,427	213,680	87,426
6. Sesame seed (Sim-sim)	Tons	3,030	3,605	64,849	76,559

APPENDIX II.

Estimated Value of the Principal Articles of Agricultural Exports of native origin for the last three years.

Article.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£
1. Hides	121,000	210,000	140,000
2. Sim-sim	84,000	65,000	76,500
3. Maize	130,000	100,000	70,000
4. Skins	30,000	50,000	51,000
5. Cotton	11,860	41,000	32,750
6. Groundnuts	26,000	19,000	31,000
7. Copra and Coconuts	35,000	28,000	20,600
8. Pulse	15,000	16,000	20,400
9. Animals	20,000	16,800	11,000
Total (all exports)	480,360	564,665	470,750

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased.

ASHANTI.
BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PRO-
TECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMEN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRI-
TORIES.
GRENADA.

HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES
UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
WEI-HAI-WEI.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
'IRAQ.

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

BRITISH TOGOLAND.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

25.342
787

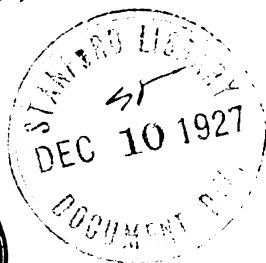
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1353.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1926.

*(For Reports for 1924 and 1925 see Nos. 1258 and 1304, respectively
(Price 6d. each).)*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;

or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 9d. net.

8-43-C-26.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Geographical... ..	3
Historical	3
Constitution	4
Climate	5
General Description of the Principal Islands	5
I. General Observations :—	
Hurricanes... ..	7
Public Health	12
Vital Statistics	13
Imports and Exports	13
II. Government Finance	14
III. Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry	14
IV. Legislation	16
V. Education	17
VI. Meteorological	17
VII. Shipping	17
VIII. Communications	18

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Geographical.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and $72^{\circ} 50'$ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

Historical.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about

the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The white population of these Islands, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians, while it is understood that the coloured people are mainly the descendants of the slaves imported by the early settlers.

From time to time these Islands have been visited by hurricanes which caused great destruction of property. Two hurricanes passed over these Islands in 1926, on 24th July and 16th September, respectively, and did great damage. The second one was the most disastrous, as regards damage to property, in the history of the Dependency.

Constitution.

The government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also Judge of the Supreme Court. By Jamaica Law No. 6 of 1926, which came into operation on the 1st August, 1926, the Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner, who by virtue of his office is President, and seven other persons, three of whom are holders of offices under the Crown, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Taxation and expenditure and all local matters are regulated by this Board. The Governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local government, and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are, in express terms, made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and has been constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

Climate.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. Although the summer months are very hot, the heat is generally tempered by the trade winds. The weather in the winter time is generally pleasant. The temperature ranges from about 60° minimum to about 93° maximum. The average rainfall during the year 1926, from observations at nine stations throughout the Dependency, was 29.27 inches. The maximum was recorded at Grand Turk, measuring 40.61 inches, and the minimum at Blue Hills, registering 23.04 inches. The average annual rainfall during the five years 1922-1926 was 25.13 inches.

General Description of the Principal Islands.

Grand Turk.

Grand Turk lies on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage, and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It is the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Commissioner resides there. The Island has a population of about 1,500, of whom about four-fifths are of African descent. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the Island. The town contains the public buildings (including the several public offices and the prison), several stores, a market, a public library, four churches (two Anglican, one Wesleyan, and one Baptist), and Masonic and other society lodges. The public hospital is at the north end of the town, and the Commissioner's residence is situated a few miles south of the town. There is a public telephone system connecting the public offices, business places, and private residences. The cable station is near Government House at the south-west end of the Island, and the radio-telegraph and telephone station is situated at the public buildings in the centre of the town. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels lie at anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are carried between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the Island. The elevation of the light is 108 feet above sea-level. This light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills running almost the entire length of the Island on the eastern side, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The Island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation, with a few stunted trees here and there. The principal industry in this Island is the production and export of salt extracted from sea-water, for which there is a demand in the United States and Canada for meat packing and fish curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. There are four salt-crushing mills on the Island. Fresh fruit, vegetables, and meat (on the hoof) are imported from the island of Santo Domingo and Haiti by small sailing vessels.

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. Its area is about 4 square miles. It is a barren island, almost devoid of vegetation, and the population, about 360, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living.

South Caicos.

This Island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The population of South Caicos is about 630. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (commonly called East Harbour).

East Caicos.

This Island, the north-eastern of the Caicos group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the Island is now uninhabited.

Middle Caicos.

Separated from East Caicos by a narrow passage lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This Island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 780. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this Island is about 1,400, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

Parrot Cay, Dellis Cay, and others.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. The cultivation of cotton on Parrot Cay was abandoned in 1925.

Providenciales, or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the Island of Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This Island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 730. The principal settlements are

Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore ; Five Cays, to the south-east ; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On this Island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This Island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the Island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in an attempt to develop the resources of this Island. The venture was abandoned and the Island is now uninhabited.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Hurricanes.

The most prominent and remarkable occurrences during the year 1926 were the two disastrous hurricanes that passed over these Islands on the 24th July and the 16th September. The hurricane of 24th July did a great amount of damage throughout the Dependency, especially at Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos, where the substantial stone revetment wall along the sea-front was completely demolished and all the shipping piers, seven in number, were entirely destroyed and washed away by the heavy seas. While the damage done in the Turks Islands was considerable, the inhabitants of all the settlements or villages in the Caicos Islands suffered severely through the destruction of, or damage to, their dwelling houses, boats, and crops. A meeting of the Legislative Board was convened and a grant of money from public funds was voted for the relief of the distress among the sufferers, who were then given supplies of food and materials to assist in the rebuilding or repairing of their homes and small craft.

While the people were just recovering from this great shock, another and far more violent hurricane swept over this Dependency on the 16th September. This second hurricane, unfortunately, caused the loss of eight lives in the Kew district of North Caicos, and it was certainly the most disastrous, as regards destruction of property, in the history of the Dependency.

Fortunately, the storm warnings, received by cable from Washington, D.C., of the approach of both these hurricanes gave the population sufficient time to prepare to meet them, and this probably accounts for the small loss of life. These warnings were at once passed on, by wireless, to Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay. According to the observations taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in the case of the July hurricane the

maximum velocity of the wind was 84 miles per hour, but in the September hurricane the wind gauge was blown down and therefore the maximum velocity could not be ascertained. It was estimated that it reached 150 miles per hour. Both hurricanes were accompanied by heavy rainfall. In the case of the latter the amount could not be measured, for every rain gauge in the Dependency was blown down during the storm. However, the meteorological observer at Grand Turk estimated that 10.30 inches of rain fell that day.

After this disastrous hurricane had passed by on its course W.N.W. the sight of the devastation left behind in its wake was appalling and beyond adequate description. At Grand Turk the sea washed over the roofs of the houses along the foreshore. The stone abutment, or retaining sea-wall, extending along the front street about 1,400 yards, was completely destroyed and broken pieces of masonry were scattered over that street, which had been torn up and partly washed away by the sea to a depth of 5 or 6 feet and was littered with rocks and debris. Large blocks of masonry had been thrown about by the force of the waves. Other streets and roads were damaged in like manner and all were blocked by debris, sand, and rocks and fallen telephone poles. Stone boundary walls were blown down and the entire Government telephone and wireless systems and also all the public shipping piers were completely wrecked and demolished. Hardly a house in the island escaped damage. In some places the coast-line had been altered. According to the census taken of the damage done, 74 dwelling houses at Grand Turk had been destroyed and 296 damaged, while 166 out-houses had been demolished. The salt ponds were badly damaged and all the canals were filled with sand and rocks.

Notwithstanding the great distress caused by this shock, the behaviour of the people generally was orderly and commendable. Immediate steps were taken to employ gangs of labourers to clear the streets, public places, and canals, and arrangements were made with the liquor dealers to sell no liquor during working hours. Large numbers of people, whose homes had been completely demolished and who were unable to obtain shelter, were housed in the court-house, the hospital, the public school, and other buildings temporarily procured for the purpose.

At the same time there was a serious shortage of food in the Dependency, due to the issue of large supplies to the sufferers in the Caicos Islands from the July hurricane and also the non-arrival of a steamer from New York, with customary food supplies, for an unusually long time. This shortage caused great suffering among many of the poorest inhabitants, who were unable to purchase food and were, in some cases, on the verge of starvation. The Government of the Dependency was faced with the very serious and difficult problem of having to feed, clothe, and house a large number of the sufferers. It was doubtful whether the Dependency's

reserve funds would be sufficient to repair the damage to the public properties, and it was quite apparent that the injury to the salt industry would seriously affect the public revenues for a considerable time.

The Government of Jamaica gave immediate and sympathetic attention to the Commissioner's appeal for help, and within a few days a steamer was despatched from Kingston with a large supply of food, clothing, and building materials. This timely assistance was most welcome and gratefully received and greatly relieved the deplorable situation, especially as regards the food shortage. A gracious message of sympathy was received from His Majesty the King and also one from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Messages of sympathy with offers of assistance were also received from the Governments of several of the West Indian Islands and from public bodies and committees abroad.

On hearing of the disaster, the Chamber of Commerce of Kingston, Jamaica, took immediate steps to establish a fund for the relief of the sufferers, and other West Indian Colonies took similar action. The liberal response to the appeal was remarkable. The local Treasury then opened a general account named the "Hurricane Relief Fund," to which all contributions have been credited. This fund has been applied only to the relief of the sufferers, mainly in furnishing shelter for the most needy. The Legislative Council of Jamaica generously voted a grant of £5,000, and the subscriptions collected in that Island amounted to over £4,400. Liberal donations to the Relief Fund were received from Bermuda and British Honduras and from nearly all the West Indian Islands, as well as from friends in England, the United States of America, and Santo Domingo. The total amount of the contributions has now exceeded £14,000. The entire administration of the relief measures has been directed and controlled by the Commissioner with the assistance of an advisory board consisting of two official and three unofficial members.

Shortly after the hurricane it was found necessary, in the special and extraordinary circumstances and in view of the enormous amount of necessary relief work to be undertaken, to create and establish an office at headquarters, styled the "Hurricane Relief Administration Office," with an officer in charge, to deal with all relief measures connected with the hurricane under the directions of the Advisory Board. The good work done by that office and the economies effected by it have fully justified its existence.

As soon as practicable after the hurricane a census was taken of the damage done throughout the Dependency. According to the tabulated returns, 534 dwelling houses were demolished and 657 damaged, while 202 out-houses were destroyed. Eighteen stone tanks and nine salt houses were damaged. Large numbers of live stock (domestic animals and poultry) were killed by the

hurricane. Sixteen registered vessels were lost and 25 damaged, while 77 boats were destroyed and 83 damaged. Ten wind machines were demolished and 33 damaged. 163,500 bushels of salt, valued at £2,724, were lost. The damage to the crops and fruit trees in the Caicos Islands was estimated at £16,720.

When the reports of the distress in the Caicos Islands were received at headquarters, Mr. L. E. Astwood of Grand Turk was sent on a tour of those islands to distribute 250 barrels of foodstuffs among the sufferers and to report on the existing state of affairs. In his report, on his return, he stated that he had "failed to find a single house that had not been damaged" and that in the village of Sandy Point every house had been demolished. The following information extracted from his report partly indicates the extent of the damage to some of the settlements in those islands:—

<i>Village.</i>	<i>Number of houses demolished.</i>		<i>Number of houses damaged but repairable.</i>
Lorimers	...	65	35
Bombarra	...	25	20
Conch Bar	...	44	9
Bottle Creek	...	97	65
Whitby	...	14	2
Sandy Point	...	28	—
Kew	...	107	27
The Bight	...	24	15

Having run short of record forms, he was unable to procure and furnish statistics as regards the damage to the settlements of Blue Hills and Five Cays. (These were obtained subsequently.) He also reported that most of the fishing boats had been lost, while every one of the remainder was damaged, and that "thousands of people were homeless and in need of food."

Mr. W. E. Bassett of Cockburn Harbour, who was sent later on a tour throughout those islands in connection with relief measures, reported, on his return, as follows:—

"The number of practically homeless people is incredible. Many are living in hastily constructed thatch camps, neither wind, rain, nor insect-proof; some in the ruined walls of their homes, covered with a few boards and leaves, and one case has reverted to the stone age and dwells in a cave. Some, more fortunate, have found shelter with friends whose houses have withstood the general disaster, and these are packed to their fullest capacity. At Kew, conditions are made much more serious by the outbreak of fever. The Government school-house is filled with fever patients, and at nearly every house I visited I found cases in various stages of recovery."

The following is another extract from his report :—

“ In conclusion I would like to remark on the indomitable courage of these out-islanders. With homes demolished, living in hovels on half rations, yet they tackle their boat-building problem with untiring energy. Already dozens of craft of various sizes are being set up.”

On the arrival of supplies of clothing from Jamaica, Bermuda, and elsewhere, a Committee was appointed at Grand Turk, consisting of the Rev. R. E. Clark (Chairman) and eight ladies, to attend to the distribution of the clothing amongst the sufferers mostly in need thereof. Similar committees were appointed at Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay. The ladies worked very hard on sorting, classifying, parcelling, and distributing the large quantity received. About 750 bundles of clothing were despatched to the Caicos Islands by the Rev. Mr. Clark, who made a tour of those islands to distribute them. Unfortunately, 16 cases of clothing from Barbados and four from Jamaica were lost in transit when the schooner “ Rosalie Belliveau ” foundered at sea.

The following statement gives a summary of the relief measures effected by the Hurricane Relief Administration Office up to the 31st July, 1927 :—

Number of—

Houses built	...	...	...	...	...	75
Houses under construction	...	...	...	...	...	52
Houses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	148
Houses undergoing repairs	...	...	...	...	...	2
Boats repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Camp houses built	...	...	...	...	...	8
Persons granted free issues of building materials for—						
New houses	...	...	...	...	...	71
Repairing houses	...	...	...	...	...	308
New boats	...	...	...	...	...	46
Repairing boats	...	...	...	...	...	34
Building camp houses	...	...	...	...	...	2
Persons given free labour grants	...	...	...	...	...	18
Persons granted free issues of food	...	...	...	...	...	509
Persons granted free issues of clothing	...	...	...	...	...	1,625

The works are still in progress and there remains a great deal more to be done, especially in the Caicos Islands.

In addition to the above works by the Hurricane Office, the under-mentioned public works have also been carried out :—

At the three settlements of Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay the streets, roads, and public places have been cleared, repaired, or reconstructed; the public buildings repaired; and the salt ponds cleaned and renovated. At Grand Turk the seawall, public wharf, and a shipping pier have been rebuilt; the

telephone system reconstructed and service re-established; reconstruction of wireless system in hand and nearly complete; and a new slaughter-house built. At Cockburn Harbour the sea-wall, public wharf, and two shipping piers have been reconstructed. At Salt Cay the docks and abutments have been repaired. In the Caicos Islands the roads have been cleared and the school houses repaired.

In view of all available records of the past, there is no doubt that the hurricane of the 16th September, 1926, was the greatest disaster in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In concluding the above observations I venture to remark that the subscribers to the Relief Fund and also those who contributed supplies of food and clothing will, no doubt, be glad to hear that in March, 1927, His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica was good enough to express his full satisfaction with the manner in which the situation had been dealt with.

Public Health.

In his Annual Report for 1926, the Government Medical Officer stated as follows :—

“ *Influenza*.—During the first months of the year influenza made its appearance in a mild form and, although there were numerous cases, there were no fatalities. There were also a few cases during the months of June and July, but after the hurricane in September this disease manifested itself in a more severe form, resulting fatally in every case where the patient was under three years of age. It was of the gastro-intestinal form, accompanied by persistent vomiting, pain in the intestines, and fever. Even when the vomiting could be controlled, the very young children developed a comatose condition with fatal results.

“ Although I have always recommended the boiling of the drinking water, I found it necessary at this time to bring the matter more emphatically before the public, and I beg to thank Your Honour for your co-operation in this matter, by having numerous notices posted in prominent places on the different Islands, urging the people to take this precautionary measure.

“ *Malaria*.—There were not many cases of malaria during the year of a severe type and there were no fatalities from this disease.

“ *Pellagra*.—The pellagra cases this year were not as numerous as in the previous year, yet there were many fatalities from this loathsome disease.

“ This disease is most prevalent among young girls and women in extreme poverty, but I have noticed that this disease also manifests itself in cases where people are in comfortable

circumstances, but, of course, these are the exceptional cases. From observation, I am inclined to believe that most cases are due to the fact that variety of food is lacking, in that way depriving the system of vitamins that are necessary in order to sustain the body in a healthy condition. I am also inclined to favour the theory that a mouldy condition of food, together with insufficient cooking, has a great deal to do with the manifestation of this disease.

"As Your Honour is probably aware, I am greatly handicapped in the treatment of this disease, on account of not being able to obtain the nourishing foods, such as fresh milk and meat, which should be prescribed, and are, of course, unobtainable on this Island. Even in cases where improvement has been shown for, sometimes, a couple of years, relapses have taken place and ended fatally.

"*Children's Diseases*.—We have been very fortunate these last few years in escaping the usual children's diseases, such as whooping cough, measles, chicken pox, &c.; however, there were quite a few cases of bowel trouble during the summer months but no fatalities.

"*Venereal Diseases*.—There were only a few cases of this kind during the year under review."

Hospitals.

The undermentioned hospital accommodation was provided by the Government :—

	<i>Beds.</i>
The Manning Hospital at Grand Turk	8
The Public Hospital at Cockburn Harbour	4

During the year, five cases were admitted to the surgical ward and eleven cases to the medical ward for treatment.

Vital Statistics.

The population of the Turks and Caicos Islands, according to the last census (1921), was 5,612.

During the year 1926, 174 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 31.5 per 1,000. During the same period 118 deaths were recorded, the death-rate being 21.4 per 1,000. Twenty-eight marriages were registered.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports during the year 1926 amounted to £48,850. The value of the goods imported from the United Kingdom was £6,791; from British dominions, £6,742; and from foreign countries, £35,317, including £32,544 the value of the imports from the United States. The imports consisted mainly of general merchandise, including food, drink, clothing, and building materials. The Customs import duties amounted to £3,706.

The exports were valued at £35,936. Shipments to the United Kingdom were valued at £1,018; to British dominions £20,550; and to foreign countries £14,368. The value of the exports to Canada was £15,728, and to the United States £11,770. The bulk of the exports consisted of salt (coarse and fishery). £34,996 was the value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1926, and £940 the value of the re-exports.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The public revenue of the Dependency for the year 1926 amounted to £9,734, and the expenditure to £14,055; the expenditure exceeding the revenue by £4,321. This excess was mainly due to the expenditure of about £4,000 on repairing some of the damage by the hurricanes to public properties and the salt ponds. The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1926, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £4,695, as against £9,017, the surplus at the end of the previous year. The Dependency has no public debt, and direct taxation is very light. The principal sources of revenue were import duties and royalty on salt, the former providing about 38 per cent., and the latter about 23 per cent., of the total revenue.

The currency consisted of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government; but gold coins were very seldom seen. The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £4,500, the notes being of the following denominations: five shillings, ten shillings, and one pound. A considerable number of British Treasury notes, Bank of England notes, and United States currency notes was also in circulation.

The Government Savings Bank had 878 accounts in operation, with £22,621 on deposit at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £21,321. The business of the Savings Bank has been increasing steadily. The amount due to depositors at the end of 1916 was £5,930, as against £22,621 at the end of 1926. There are no private banks doing business in these Islands. The Post Office money-order business has also increased considerably. The value of the orders issued and paid in 1926 amounted to £10,624, as against £984 in 1921.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

In 1926 the value of the imports exceeded the value of the exports by £12,914. This unfavourable trade balance was mainly due to the large importations of building materials, food, and other supplies after the two hurricanes and to the labourers of these Islands employed abroad remitting a portion of their earnings for the support of their families remaining at home.

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last three years :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£
Salt	25,630	32,854	30,111
Sponges	1,647	2,408	1,937
Conchs	1,217	1,393	1,523
Turtle shell	50	162	743
Cotton and cotton-seed ...	904	566	290
Shark products	—	20	198
Sisal	169	684	6

Almost all of the above exports, except salt, was the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports and exports, during the last three years :—

Imports.				
	<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>British Dominions.</i>	<i>Foreign Countries.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£	£
1924	4,282	3,230	35,741	43,253
1925	4,592	3,520	33,458	41,570
1926	6,791	6,742	35,317	48,850

Exports.				
1924	131	13,160	18,204	31,495
1925	485	18,412	20,165	39,062
1926	1,018	20,550	14,368	35,936

The above figures show an increase in this Dependency's trade with the United Kingdom and the British Dominions.

Salt.—It will be seen that salt is the Dependency's principal article of export. Two grades are exported—coarse and fishery (ground). The following table shows the destination, quantity, and value of shipments in 1926 :—

	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
	<i>Bushels.</i>	£
United States	623,924	10,459
Canada	663,432	15,386
Newfoundland	96,244	2,192
Jamaica	94,806	1,395
St. Pierre et Miquelon ...	19,012	417
France	6,878	143
Haiti	6,192	113
Santo Domingo	254	4
Bahamas	75	2
	<hr/> 1,510,817 <hr/>	<hr/> £30,111 <hr/>

The total quantity of salt exported during the ten years 1917-26 amounted to 15,106,745 bushels, the annual average being 1,510,674 bushels.

In 1926 Grand Turk exported 435,643 bushels, valued at £9,277; Cockburn Harbour, 695,816 bushels, valued at £14,041; and Salt Cay, 379,358 bushels, valued at £6,793.

Conchs.—There was a slight increase in the trade in conchs. The number exported in 1926 amounted to 1,522,700, as against 1,392,600 shipped in 1925. They were valued at £1 per 1,000.

Sponges.—There was a decline in the shipment of sponges as compared with the previous year. Only 21,189 lb., valued at £1,937, were exported in 1926.

Cotton.—As regards the export of raw cotton, only 3,949 lb. were shipped in 1926, as compared with 6,953 lb. exported in the previous year. However, at the end of 1926 there was a large quantity in storage awaiting to be shipped on a rise in the market price. 22,942 lb. of cotton-seed, valued at £93, were exported, as against 42,700 lb., valued at £160, shipped in 1925.

Sisal.—Only 1,000 lb. of sisal, valued at £6, were exported in 1926, as against 49,492 lb., valued at £684, in 1925.

Shell.—There was an increase in the quantity of shell exported, shown as follows :—

		1924.	1925.	1926.
Turtle shell	...	50 lb.	152 lb.	735 lb.
Conch shells	...	60 barrels	480 barrels	229 barrels.
Whelk shells	...	6 barrels	160 barrels	195 barrels.

Minor Produce.—Small quantities of fish (salted), hides, poultry, and ground produce were exported during the year.

Shark Produce.—As regards the infant shark-fishing industry, the undermentioned shark products were exported during the year 1926 :—

Skins	...	...	...	...	...	535 only.
Flesh	...	...	...	...	...	845 lb.
Oil	...	...	...	...	...	445 gls.
Fins	...	...	...	...	...	430 lb.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Only three ordinances were passed in 1926. No. 1 was the ordinary appropriation ordinance for 1926; No. 2 was the usual supplementary appropriation ordinance in respect of expenditure in 1925; and No. 3 related to the regulation of street traffic.

V.—EDUCATION.

Education is compulsory in these Islands. The sum of £840 was granted to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency and for other educational purposes. There were ten Government elementary schools. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 886, and the average attendance 670. The salaries of the teachers amounted to £685. There were also eight private schools, under the control of the Board of Education, with an attendance of 114.

The Secondary School at Grand Turk, which is controlled by a board of management appointed by the Commissioner, received a grant from public funds of £150. The average attendance at this school was 33.

A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have since been held annually with satisfactory results.

In consideration of the difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable teachers for the elementary schools, the Board of Education sent a young man to Jamaica to undergo a course of training at the Mico College; a guarantee having been furnished that after his return to these Islands he will serve as a teacher in one of the Government schools for a term of years.

After the hurricane of 16th September it was found necessary to use some of the school buildings for housing people whose homes had been destroyed.

In his annual report for 1926, the Inspector of Schools expressed his opinion that, considering the interruption of school work caused by the hurricane and the distressed state of mind of the teachers, parents, and scholars, the results of the year's work were, on the whole, not unsatisfactory.

VI.—METEOROLOGICAL.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk in latitude 21° 22' N. and longitude 71° 27' W., at a height of 11.3 feet above sea-level, were as follows :—

Rainfall	...	...	...	40.61 inches.
Maximum temperature	...	...	...	90°
Minimum temperature	...	...	...	64°

VII.—SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Dependency during the year 1926 was as follows :—

	<i>British.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Steamships	4	53	57
Sailing vessels	190	26	216
	<hr/> 194	<hr/> 79	<hr/> 273

The net tonnage of the sailing ships amounted to 31,716, and of the steamships to 68,220.

The ships of the Clyde Steamship Company of New York called at Grand Turk every three weeks on their way from Santo Domingo to New York.

A steamer of the Columbus Line, Inc., sailing from New York *en route* to Santo Domingo, called at Grand Turk every three or four weeks.

Ever since the middle of December, 1926, the steamers of the Royal Netherlands West India Mail, on the way from New York to South American ports, have called at Grand Turk for stevedores about three times a month, and called again, on the return voyage, to land them.

VIII.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York by the steamers referred to above.

Mails were also despatched to Jamaica by steamers of the Elders and Fyffes line, which called occasionally at Grand Turk and also by sailing vessel whenever an opportunity presented itself.

The Government radio-telegraph and telephone system connecting Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay and also giving service with ships at sea, was demolished by the hurricane. Steps have been taken to repair the damage and re-establish the service.

The Dependency is connected by cable with Bermuda, Jamaica, and Barbados.

The Direct West India Cable Company supplies a News Bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

H. E. PHILLIPS,

Commissioner.

Grand Turk,

4th August, 1927.

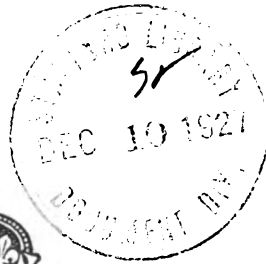
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1354,

NEW HEBRIDES.

Report for 1926.

(For Reports for 1924 and 1925 see Nos. 1273 and 1334, respectively (Price 6d. each).)



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 6d. net.

58-29-0-26

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
GENERAL	3
FINANCE :—	
Currency and Banking	3
Revenue and Expenditure	4
PRODUCTION, AND NATURAL RESOURCES	5
TRADE AND ECONOMICS :—	
Imports	6
Exports	6
Wages and Cost of Living	8
POPULATION :—	
Non-Native Population	8
Native Population	9
COMMUNICATIONS :—	
Shipping	9
Posts	10
Radiotelegraph	10
JUSTICE	11
PUBLIC HEALTH	11
METEOROLOGICAL	12

NEW HEBRIDES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

GENERAL.

The New Hebrides, to which are attached the Banks and Torres Islands, lie between the 12th and 20th degrees of South latitude and the 165th and 170th degrees of East longitude, and have an area of about 5,700 square miles. The natives are Melanésians, but in places there is a mixture of Polynesian blood.

A joint Naval Commission was established in 1888, by agreement with France, to protect the lives and property of British and French subjects and to maintain order. By the Convention of the 20th October, 1906, a Condominium was set up with a joint Court composed of British and French Judges and a neutral President; and an executive Government consisting, for some purposes, of the British and French representatives in the Group acting in concert. For other purposes, British and French nationals remain subject to the control only of their national authorities. The Convention of the 20th October, 1906, has been superseded by a Convention of the 6th August, 1914, which was ratified in March, 1922.

The British and French Resident Commissioners are subordinate to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the High Commissioner at Nouméa respectively.

The year 1926 was fairly successful for both planters and traders. The British planter, although greatly handicapped by lack of sufficient labour, was able to dispose of his produce without difficulty and at a reasonable price.

FINANCE.

Currency and Banking.

The year opened with the French currency at francs 131.00 to the £ sterling and closed at 122.10. The highest rate reached during the year was francs 239.40 and the lowest francs 119.32.

There are no banking facilities in the New Hebrides. Most of the French firms carry out their banking business with the Banque de L'Indo-Chine in Nouméa.

Revenue and Expenditure.

CONDOMINIUM REVENUE.

	1925.	1926.
	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>
I. Post Office	127,704.00	218,791.00
II. Port Dues	33,968.00	36,774 00
III. Joint Court	132.00	381.00
IV. Import Duties... ..	966,610.00	1,208,027.00
V. Export Duties... ..	203,714.00	226,630.00
VI. Radiotelegraph	28,804.00	51,095.00
VII. Miscellaneous	59,782.00	35,501.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Condominium Revenue	1,420,714.00	1,777,199.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>

CONDOMINIUM EXPENDITURE.

	1925.	1926.
	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>
I. Joint Court	116,136.00	224,895.00
II. Constabulary	—	—
III. Post Office and Treasury	64,988.00	95,510.00
IV. Public Works (Annual)	73,962.00	134,355.00
V. Public Works (Extra-ordinary)	207,718.00	174,059.00
VI. Port and Harbour	9,470.00	11,663.00
VII. Island Services	126,252.00	189,161.00
VIII. Medical Department	8,310.00	24,598.00
IX. Customs	29,974.00	32,745.00
X. Telegraphs and Tele-phones	83,122.00	152,705.00
XI. Lands	66,840.00	42,227.00
XII. Miscellaneous	1,721,440.00	135,641.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Condominium Expenditure	2,508,212.00	1,217,559.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>

EXPENDITURE ON SERVICES ENTIRELY BRITISH. *

			1925-26.			1926-27.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Establishment	...	...	4,188	10	1	3,633	0	0
Travelling	...	...	7,549	4	0	5,402	0	0
Medical	...	...	325	0	0	350	0	0
District agents	...	...	included in			1,620	0	0
			Establishment.					
Prison	...	...	—			21	0	0
Constabulary	...	...	1,763	15	0	1,984	0	0
Incidentals	...	...	2,296	13	1	2,651	0	0
Total Expenditure on								
Services entirely British			£16,123	2	2	£15,661	0	0

PRODUCTION, AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

During the year under review the New Hebrides Group has continued to progress agriculturally, and the chief exports—copra, cotton, coffee, and cocoa—show no sign of any falling-off in quantity or quality. Copra, as usual, holds first place, with an increase of a thousand tons over last year's production.

Additional areas have been put under cotton and cocoa, and coffee has received a fair amount of attention. On the island of Malekula the French Cotton Growing Société has turned its attention to coconuts, and all available cleared land has now been planted in coconuts as well as cotton.

The four cotton-ginning plants established in the Group dealt with the bulk of the cotton grown, which was almost entirely exported to Europe. These are situated at Vila (Efate), Ringdove Bay and Vuambi (Epi), and Norsup (Malekula).

As in previous years, the cultivation of cocoa remains almost entirely in French hands, there being but one British planter of that commodity.

More attention is being given to coffee, and some new areas have been planted up.

Numerous French properties have changed hands at substantial figures, the purchasers being a newly-formed French company operating on the island of Santo.

There has been no noticeable influx of settlers. Large areas of good land are still available for settlement.

* Defrayed from funds provided by Parliament—Vote for Colonial Services, Class V, 2. Certain Miscellaneous Fees of Court, Office, &c., and other casual receipts, totalling approximately £467 in 1926-27 were received for transfer to the Exchequer.

TRADE AND ECONOMICS

Imports and Exports.**IMPORTS.**

The value of goods of all kinds imported into the Group for the year under report showed an increase in francs of 8,453,173 (£54,890). Owing, however, to the fall in the franc exchange, which averaged 154 to the £ sterling, the sterling value shows a decrease on the preceding year.

Imports.

	1925.	1926.
Value in French currency...	Frs. 22,004,232	Frs. 30,457,405
Value in British currency...	£217,863*	£197,840†

Of the total imports for 1926, the value of the British share was francs 10,131,233 (£65,787), and that of the French at francs 20,326,172 (£131,988). The result shows a considerable advance in the value of the British share of the import trade, being a 65 per cent. increase as expressed in francs and 9 per cent. increase as expressed in sterling on a depreciated rate of exchange.

Appended hereto is a comparative statement of the imports for the last five years :—

Year.				British.	French.	Total.
				Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
1922	...	...	...	1,398,818·00	3,168,655·00	4,567,473·00
1923	...	...	...	1,663,972·00	4,798,749·00	6,462,721·00
1924	...	...	...	1,679,824·09	6,249,503·87	7,929,327·96
1925	...	...	...	6,107,509·97	15,896,725·40	22,004,235·37
1926	...	...	...	10,131,233·32	20,326,172·28	30,457,405·00

EXPORTS.

The quantities of the different produce exported from the Group during 1926 show an increase over the preceding year, and the total comparative value an advance of 22 per cent. The amount of "ginned" cotton has more than doubled, while the quantity of cleaned coffee exported has quadrupled itself.

A comparative statement of the quantities and values of the exports for 1926 and the preceding year is tabulated below. The value of the British share for the year under report is estimated at £82,326—an increase of nearly 14 per cent. over 1925—and that of the French share £291,903.

* Converted at 101 francs to the £.

† Converted at 154 francs to the £.

The bulk of the exports, both British and French, were copra, amounting in the case of the former to over 80 per cent. of the total and in the case of the latter to 40 per cent. The balance of the British exports was made up of cocoa, cotton seed, trocas shell, wool, and sandalwood, which accounted for the remaining 20 per cent.; and in case of the French, cotton, coffee, cocoa, trocas shell, maize—the first three accounting for 50 per cent., the balance of 10 per cent. being made up of miscellaneous exports such as coconuts, fruit, bêche de mer, etc.

The Messageries Maritimes line of steamers supplied the usual two to three monthly service throughout the year, and in consequence thereof most of the produce of the Group is shipped direct to European ports, with the exception of cocoa, which finds a ready market in Australia.

Exports.

Comparative Tables in Tons and Sterling.

<i>Produce.</i>	<i>1925.</i>			<i>1926.</i>		
	<i>Weight.</i>	<i>Value.</i>		<i>Weight.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	
<i>Article.</i>	<i>Tons, cwt. lb.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>Tons, cwt. lb.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Copra ...	7,370 13 0	162,154	6 0	8,381 16 26	184,318	1 0
Cacao ...	1,495 4 28	59,808	10 0	1,949 11 51	87,730	17 0
Cotton (in seed)...	790 13 28	29,445	3 6	861 15 65	17,237	12 0
Cotton (ginned)...	220 9 84	26,458	10 0	556 18 106	44,556	0 0
Cotton (") 2nd	4 2 28	390	13 0	—	—	—
Coffee (in cherry)	227 16 84	5,696	4 9	—	—	—
Coffee (cleaned)...	58 17 43	4,415	3 6	273 15 70	21,890	8 0
Maize ...	193 19 56	1,357	16 6	207 7 30	1,659	1 6
Trocas ...	112 2 56	8,073	0 0	85 4 7	4,686	3 6
Burghaus ...	56 11 56	678	18 0	28 10 40	342	6 0
Bêche de Mer ...	4 6 56	73	10 6	9 3 11	183	2 0
Hides ...	21 10 28	602	7 0	19 15 4	533	7 6
Sandalwood ...	22 3 0	553	15 0	57 8 85	1,435	0 0
Peanuts ...	0 6 0	8	8 0	—	—	—
Ginger ...	0 2 56	3	10 0	—	—	—
Coconuts... ..	84 3 0	673	4 0	95 1 44	760	0 0
Wool ...	23 3 0	6,129	0 0	32 4 97	7,222	0 0
Arrowroot ...	2 4 99	125	13 6	1 4 0	67	4 0
Cotton seed ...	316 5 37	540	13 6	987 12 4	1,467	15 0
Fruit ...	15 4 0	212	16 0	10 2 0	140	15 0
Miscellaneous ...	63 15 84	—	—	139 15 0	—	—
	11,083 14 39	£307,401	2 9	13,697 5 76	£374,229	7 6

Wages, and Cost of Living.

The cost of living for the year under report has increased in relation to previous years, two of the causes being the great difficulty in obtaining fresh vegetables and the failure of the supply of fresh meat.

The native and the Chinese settlements in Vila no longer find it sufficiently profitable to continue vegetable gardening, owing to the high rate of wages they are able to command in other commercial enterprises. The discontinuity in the supply of fresh meat is attributed to the difficulty of the collection and transportation of the animals to Vila and the lack of competition—there being only one butchery in Vila. The same difficulty is also experienced in regard to the supply of eggs and poultry, the prices of which are abnormally high.

The great instability of the franc during the year under report also accounted for high prices, which have not fallen in ratio to the recovery of the franc to its present value in relation to the £ sterling.

Nearly all perishable commodities are imported from Australia. Appended below is a table giving the average prices for articles of daily consumption :—

Butter, 2s. 9d. per lb.
Tea, 3s. to 3s. 6d. per lb.
Eggs, 3s. per dozen (when procurable).
Potatoes, 14s. per sack of 50 lb.
Coffee, 2s. 6d. per lb.
Tinned meat, 1s. 6d. to 2s. per tin.
Tinned vegetables, 1s. 6d. to 2s. per tin.
Flour, £1 5s. per bag of 75 lb.
Sugar, 3½d. per lb.

Native casual labour still commands 5s. to 7s. per day. The average wage paid for untrained or partially-trained domestic servants is from 25s. to 30s. per month for a female and 35s. to 45s. for a male.

POPULATION.

Non-Native Population.

The year's statistics show a decrease of 35 in the number of non-native population under British jurisdiction, which totals 250 for the year under report. Those under the French flag for the same period (excluding Asiatic indentured labourers) total 729, a slight increase on the preceding year's figures.

A statement is appended giving details of the non-native population for the year under report :—

<i>Description.</i>	<i>British.</i>			<i>French.</i>		
	<i>Adult Males.</i>	<i>Females and Children.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Adult Males.</i>	<i>Females and Children.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Nationals	115	96	211	280	400	680
Foreigners opted under Protocol ...	11	10	21	12	—	12
Asiatics opted under Protocol	17	—	17	37	—	37
Protected subjects and citizens ...	1	—	1	2,220* 25†	1,400 29	3,620 54
	144	106	250	2,574	1,829	4,403

* Tonkinese coolies under indenture.

† Javanese coolies under indenture.

Native Population.

It is with regret that no great advance can be reported during the current year. The establishment of a native medical practitioner on the island of Malekula has been of service, and as the natives become more accustomed to his presence better results will follow.

It has been brought to notice to a still greater degree the many cases of yaws, hookworm, &c., which are treated by the members of the various Missionary Societies in the Group, and the very real assistance they are contributing to the welfare of the native race. The same remark applies to the British settler generally, and the care extended to those working on the different plantations is of great value.

The above, however, only touches certain districts, and the question still remains, but is under careful consideration, as to how in the future the well-being of the New Hebridean native can be best preserved.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

ENTERED TONNAGE.

	1926.	1925.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
25 British	20,335	14,875
40 French	62,265	53,329
3 American	85	—
—	—	—
68	82,685	68,204
—	—	—

CLEARED TONNAGE.

					1926. Tons.	1925. Tons.
23	British	...	..	...	20,594	14,680
37	French	...	...	...	61,067	49,516
1	American	...	...	...	25	—
<hr/>					<hr/>	<hr/>
61					81,686	64,196.
<hr/>					<hr/>	<hr/>

H.M.A.S. 'Sydney' and H.M.S. 'Delhi' visited the Group during the month of May, and the French sloop 'Cassiopee' several times during the year.

Posts.

The volume of correspondence handled by the Post Office during 1926 shows a considerable increase over preceding years, as shown from the table as follows:—

	<i>From, or to, British territory.</i>		<i>From, or to, French territory.</i>		<i>Other places.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Received.</i>	<i>Des- patched.</i>	<i>Received.</i>	<i>Des- patched.</i>	<i>Received.</i>	<i>Des- patched.</i>	
Letters ...	24,000	18,000	60,000	36,000	2,400	1,200	141,600
Other articles ...	48,000	2,400	24,000	4,800	—	—	79,200
Registered articles ...	1,200	1,800	4,080	4,200	600	200	12,080
Totals ...	73,200	22,200	88,080	45,000	3,000	1,400	232,880

Mail communication between Australia and the Group is maintained by vessels of the Burns Philp Line, subsidized by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, and by the Messageries Maritimes Line, subsidized by the French Government.

Inter-island communication is maintained by the s.s. 'Malinoa' (Burns Philp and Co.), and by the s.s. 'St. Andre,' s.s. 'St. Michel' (Messrs. Ballande), and the s.s. 'Neo-Hebridais' (Messrs. de Bechade).

Radiotelegraph.

In 1926, 2,041 messages were despatched from, and 2,081 received at, the Station. Of those sent, 510 were on Government account, and of those received, 476.

The cost of the Station was francs 152,705, and the receipts on account of traffic francs 52,140, of which francs 20,194 was

payable to other stations as their share of coastal charges. The operating staff of the Station numbered two—one British and one French.

The volume of messages despatched and received shows a considerable increase over the preceding year.

JUSTICE.

There were no cases of serious crime during the year under report. Reports indicate the decrease in "bush" murders, and the natives in the vicinities of the headquarters of the administrative divisions are becoming increasingly inclined to bring their troubles to the local Government representative.

The Joint Court was constituted during the year, and opened its doors on the 17th December. The majority of cases brought before that Tribunal concerned the illegal sale of alcohol to natives.

It is anticipated that during 1927 the Native Courts, under Article 8 of the Protocol of 1914, will function and that a Court of First Instance, under Article 21 (4), will be established in Central District No. 1 (Efate).

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the indigenous and white populations of the Group has on the whole been good for the period under report. There have been no serious epidemics. The Paton Memorial Hospital on Iririki carried on its excellent work, the total number of native cases treated being 1,469, of which 20 were in-patients. The numbers of European and native deaths were 1 and 30 respectively.

The Mission hospital on Lenakel, Tanna, also did good work and is of the greatest assistance to both Europeans and natives in the Southern Group. No statistics are available as to the cases treated.

The French Government hospital in Vila treated 3,308 natives and 237 Europeans; the mortality being 48 and 4 respectively. The medical staff of the French hospital is being increased during the forthcoming year. The French hospital in the Second Channel also did good work.

The Condominium dressing station established at Bushman's Bay, Malekula, under a Fijian native medical practitioner, to which reference was made in last year's report, is proving a success, especially in regard to the treatment of yaws and hookworm. Approval has been obtained in the forthcoming Budget for the employment of a second Fijian native medical practitioner, should the Suva Medical School be able to supply one, and also a French native medical practitioner from one of the French Colonies. The

combined efforts of these three native medical practitioners, when organised, should show a distinct advancement in the medical treatment of the natives in several parts of the Group.

The question of the sanitation of Vila, which at present leaves much to be desired, has been the subject of much discussion. During 1927 a Sanitary Commission will be formed to deal with this important matter, and the sum of 30,000 francs is being inserted in the Budget as a preliminary expenditure on such recommendations as the Commission may make.

The Condominium Medical Officer reports as follows :—

“ L'état sanitaire a été très satisfaisant en raison de la faible mortalité et par suite de l'absence de toute maladie épidémique.

“ La saison chaude a été très facile à supporter, il y a eu par suite beaucoup moins de paludisme.”

METEOROLOGICAL.

For the period under report there were no storms or other atmospheric disturbances of an abnormal character in the Group. A statement is appended showing the rainfall at four stations in the Group for the years 1922 to 1926 and the preceding mean average quinquennial rainfall.

RAINFALL RETURN OF FOUR STATIONS IN THE NEW HEBRIDES FOR THE YEARS 1922-1926 INCLUSIVE.

Year.				
	<i>Port Vila</i> (<i>Efate</i>).	<i>Dillon's Bay</i> (<i>Erra-manga</i>).	<i>Hog Harbour</i> (<i>East Santo</i>).	<i>Port Paterson</i> (<i>Vanna Lora, Bank</i>).
	17.44 S. 168.18 E.	18.47 S. 168.58 E.	15.05 S. 167.67 E.	13.50 S. 167.34 E.
1922	65.08	63.95	136.60	208.65
1923	69.79	64.32	137.09	157.86
1924	77.84	47.17	135.78	139.88
1925	74.56	61.25	127.44	128.44
1926	73.06	62.34	133.34	137.50
Mean Annual Rainfall	72.06	59.80	134.05	154.46
Mean of the previous five years. 1917-1921.	78.27	68.07	120.03	160.16

G. B. SMITH-REWSE,
Resident Commissioner.

British Residency,
Vila.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1355.

SOMALILAND.

REPORT FOR 1926.

*(For Reports for 1924 and 1925 see Nos. 1271 and 1316 respectively
(Price 6d. each).)*



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927

Price 6d. net.

58-38-o-26.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
I. Political and General	3
II. Finance 1926-1927	3
III. Trade and Shipping	5
IV. Education	7
V. Medical	7
VI. Meteorology	8
VII. Police and Judicial	9
VIII. Prisons	9
IX. Posts, Telegraphs, and Communications... ..	9
X. Public Works	10
XI. Veterinary	11
XII. Agriculture	11
XIII. Mineralogy	12
XIV. Military	12

SOMALILAND.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

I.—Political and General.

During the year under review the Government of Italian Somaliland undertook an expedition with a view to disarming certain recalcitrant tribes under their jurisdiction who are intimately connected with some sections of our tribes. This action by the Italian Government has reacted to a considerable extent on the political situation in the eastern area of this Protectorate; for, while a portion of the Italian subject tribes submitted to the demands of the Italian Government, a powerful section continued in open rebellion, and at the end of the year the political situation in the eastern area of this country was somewhat clouded.

It has not yet been possible to come to any satisfactory agreement with the Abyssinian Government as to the status of certain tribes living at times on either side of the Abyssinian—British Somaliland border, and trouble with the local Abyssinian authority was prevalent throughout the year.

In all other parts of the Protectorate, however, peaceful conditions prevailed, and with good rains the country as a whole enjoyed a prosperous year.

II.—Finance, 1926-1927.

Revenue.

2. The revenue of the Protectorate for the year amounted to £90,569, an increase, as compared with 1925-26, of £1,512. The principal sources of revenue were :—

Customs: £67,090, an increase of £908 over the previous year.

Licences, Excise, &c. : £14,461, an increase of £689 over the previous year.

Fees of Court or Office : £4,172, an increase of £292 over the previous year.

Posts and Telegraphs : £1,452, an increase of £316 over the previous year.

Miscellaneous Receipts : £3,287, an increase of £68 over the previous year.

The increase under " Customs " indicates a slow but steady improvement in trade, as is shown by the figures for the last five years :—

							£
1922-23	...	...	...	...	...	...	51,740
1923-24	...	...	...	...	...	...	57,606
1924-25	...	...	...	...	...	...	60,955
1925-26	...	...	...	...	...	...	66,182
1926-27	...	...	...	...	...	...	67,090

The increase under “ Licences, Excise, &c.,” was the result of a larger number of political cases being brought before the District Courts.

The increase under “ Fees of Court or Office ” was largely due to the following causes :—

(i) Establishment of more meat markets and the consequent collection of market fees ;

(ii) Increased contributions to Widows’ and Orphans’ Pension Fund ;

(iii) Larger sale of drugs.

The increase under “ Posts and Telegraphs ” was the result of purchase of stamps by philatelists.

Public Debt.

The Protectorate debt due to the Imperial Treasury remains at £113,000 as mentioned in the report for 1925-26.

Expenditure.

3. The total expenditure brought to account amounted to £149,125, showing a decrease of £18,830 under the previous year.

Financial Position on 31st March, 1927.

4. The abstract of revenue and expenditure was as follows :—

						£
Balance in hand, 1st April, 1926	...	...	...	...	...	37,876
Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	90,569
Free Grant-in-Aid	...	...	...	...	...	45,000
						<hr/> £173,445 <hr/>
						£
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	149,125
Balance in hand	...	...	...	...	...	24,320
						<hr/> £173,445 <hr/>

This improvement is due as much to increase in revenue as economy in expenditure.

Currency and Banking.

5. The monetary unit current in the Protectorate is the Indian rupee.

The following Indian coins also are in circulation :—

1 pie, 1 pice, 1, 2, 4, and 8 annas, and Government of India notes.

The average rate of exchange with London during the year was 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to the rupee.

6. The estimated value of currency in circulation at the close of the year was :—

	Rs.
Indian coins	9,00,000
Indian notes	3,00,000

7. There are no banks established in the Protectorate, but a private firm, Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw and Brothers, of Bombay, accept deposits from private individuals, and cash cheques drawn against them. There are no banking laws in force.

III.—Trade and Shipping.

8. Trade had been somewhat stagnant in the early part of the year, but there was a very marked improvement later.

Sea Customs.

The value of the sea-borne Protectorate trade during the year 1926 was Rs.81,48,360, as compared with Rs.90,06,285 in 1925. The following comparative table shows the value of the imports and exports, excluding specie, during the last three years :—

Year.	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.	Total. Rs.
1924	50,03,100	34,17,180	84,20,280
1925	53,65,455	36,40,830	90,06,285
1926	44,59,650	36,88,710	81,48,360

Imports.

9. The import trade, excluding specie to the value of Rs.1,51,695, amounted to Rs.44,59,650 and was distributed in the following proportions amongst the four Protectorate ports :—

Ports.	Amount. Rs.	Percentage. 1925.	Percentage 1926.
Berbera	26,22,345	57.49	58.80
Bulhar	2,37,630	6.89	5.33
Zeilah	14,65,485	32.87	32.86
Makhir Coast Ports ...	1,34,190	2.75	3.10

10. The following were the principal articles of import, representing 73 per cent. of the total trade, as compared with 79 per cent. in the preceding year :—

Articles.	Unit.	Year 1925.	Year 1926.
American grey sheeting ...	Yards	301,530	166,440
Japan grey sheeting ...	"	2,857,110	2,466,010
China grey sheeting ...	"	—	32,300
European white longcloth ...	"	927,226	1,399,902
Dates	Cwt.	38,281	47,761
Rice	"	91,971	56,259
Sugar	"	33,967	31,762

Exports.

11. The export trade, excluding specie to the value of Rs.1,52,835, amounted to Rs.36,88,710 and was derived from the following sources :—

<i>Port.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>1925.</i>	<i>1926.</i>
Berbera	20,68,080	58·83	56·70
Bulhar... ..	3,48,135	8·23	9·44
Zeilah	10,43,190	29·00	28·28
Makbir Coast ports	2,29,300	3·94	6·21

12. The following were the principal indigenous products, comprising about 92 per cent. of the total export trade as compared below with 93 per cent. in the preceding year :—

<i>Item.</i>	<i>Unit.</i>	<i>Year 1925.</i>	<i>Year 1926.</i>
Bullocks	<i>No.</i>	789	1,008
Sheep and Goats	"	97,492	126,280
Skins	"	1,302,302	1,066,702
Hides	<i>Cwt.</i>	653	181
Ghee (clarified butter)	"	2,762	3,693
Gums and resins	"	5,227	6,766

Land Customs.

13. The following statement shows the quantity, description, and value of the import trade recorded at the Zeilah frontier station during 1925 and 1926 :—

<i>Item.</i>	<i>1925.</i>		<i>1926.</i>	
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Millet (Jowari)	1,417	14,680	955½	9,875
Wheat	86	885	44½	470
Miscellaneous	—	440	—	1,276

14. The following are the export figures recorded at the Zeilah frontier station during 1925 and 1926 :—

<i>Item.</i>	<i>1925.</i>		<i>1926.</i>	
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Horses	1	100	5	400
Camels	20	1,100	53	2,954
Cattle... ..	827	33,080	945	37,800
Sheep and goats	5,901	66,390	4,905	55,184
	<i>Cwt.</i>		<i>Cwt.</i>	
Salt	20,988	15,749	19,089	11,152

Quantity of salt exported by land and sea.

The quantity of salt removed from the salt-pans at Zeilah was 41,533 cwt., compared with 46,728 cwt. in 1925, a decrease of about 11 per cent.

Shipping.

15. The following is the comparative table of the steam and country craft shipping which entered and cleared from the Protectorate ports during the past two years :—

		1925.		1926.	
		Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
Entered	...	560	38,420	...	504
Cleared	...	579	37,966	...	511
					39,920
					40,870

IV.—Education.

16. The average daily attendance at the Government School in Berbera was 32 children, as compared with 47 for the preceding year.

V.—Medical.

17. The following is a comparative table of cases treated in the last three years :—

		1924.		1925.	1926.
Admitted to Hospital	1,272	1,451	1,885
Out-patients	24,274	24,870	23,777
Deaths	51	53	55

While there has been a decrease in the number of out-patients of 1,093, i.e., 4.39 per cent., the in-patients have increased by 434, i.e., 29.98 per cent. The decrease in attendance of out-patients is due to good seasons, during which patients are reluctant to come to stations in great numbers. Somalis take the opportunity of attending the hospital when their *karias*, which they move about according to grazing, are not far away from stations and when their attendance at a District Court is essential. When pasture is good in the interior the attendance drops.

18.—(a) General Diseases—**Cases treated.**

		1925.	1926.
Scurvy	...	6	1
Beri-Beri	...	2	4
Epidemic Dropsy	...	—	18, with one death.

(b) Communicable Diseases—**(I) Insect-borne :—**

		1925.	1926.
Malaria	...	834	635
Relapsing fever	...	118	131
Leishmaniasis	...	1	1

(II) Infectious and Epidemic :—

Cases treated :—

	1925.	1926.
Chicken-pox	62	6
Influenza	247	126
Dengue	85	4
Dysentery (Bacillary)	30	26
Tuberculosis	278	222
Leprosy	6	11
Measles	8	9

(c) Venereal Diseases—

Cases treated :—

	1925.	1926.
Syphilis	601	649
Gonorrhœa	145	122

19. The sick-rate among the European officials has been doubled. In Berbera there has been a series of illnesses of unknown cause. There have been no invalidings or deaths.

20. The following table represents the work in the various hospitals and dispensaries in the Protectorate :—

<i>Hospital.</i>	<i>No. of In-patients.</i>	<i>Daily average in hospital.</i>	<i>No. of deaths during the year.</i>	<i>No. of Out-patients.</i>	<i>Average daily attendance.</i>
Berbera ...	736	61·80	30	5,807	61·12
Zeilah ...	72	4·44	3	2,180	26·93
Burao ...	407	23·16	8	5,764	76·86
Sheikh ...	11	0·3	—	1,718	18·4
Hargeisa ...	348	15·0	11	2,820	44·25
Buramo ...	46	0·82	1	1,816	33·3
Bulhar ...	—	—	—	1,601	9·02
Erigavo ...	179	7·7	2	2,071	20·6

VI.—Meteorology.

21. The rainfall records for the year were :—

<i>Station.</i>	<i>Total rainfall. Inches.</i>	<i>Absolute maximum temperature. Fahr.</i>	<i>Absolute minimum temperature. Fahr.</i>	<i>Mean maximum. Fahr.</i>	<i>Mean minimum. Fahr.</i>
Berbera ...	6·54	111	61	93	79
Burao ...	12·3	92	48	84	65
Sheikh ...	27·38	95	37	82	58
Hargeisa ...	31·91	92	30	85	58
Zeilah ...	10·81	108	52	91	74
Buramo ...	27·79	92	39	83	59
Erigavo ...	18·34	85	28	79	49

VII.—Police and Judicial.*Police.*

22. The establishment of the Police Force on the 31st of December, 1926, was as follows :—

- 1 Commandant.
- 1 Assistant Commandant (who is also a Director of Prisons).
- 5 District Police Officers.
- 1 Pay and Quartermaster, and
- 500 rank and file.

Next year, on reorganisation, the five District Police Officers will be transferred to the Administrative staff.

Judicial.

23. The Law of the Protectorate is :—

(a) Coded Law, i.e., the Indian Penal Code and local Ordinances ;

(b) Tribal custom based on Mohammedan Law.

The new Code of Criminal Procedure, referred to in the last Report, has been completed and will be introduced next year.

The following are the statistics :—

Criminal cases tried under Coded Law.

	1925.	1926.
(1) By District Courts	842	915
(2) By the Protectorate (or High Court)	1	1

Cases of a criminal nature tried under Tribal custom.

	1925.	1926.
(1) By Akils' (Native) Courts	27	83
(2) By District Courts	355	573

VIII.—Prisons.

24. The Central Gaol is in Berbera, where lunatics are also confined if necessary.

There are small gaols at Zeilah, Burao, Hargeisa, and Erigavo.

The average daily number of prisoners in Berbera Gaol was 96.321, as compared with 104.23 for the previous year.

IX.—Posts, Telegraphs, and Communications.

25. Postal and Telegraphs revenue and expenditure were as follows :—

	1925-26.	1926-27.
	£	£
Revenue	1,136	1,452
Expenditure	7,421	7,447

26. The money-order transactions were as follows :—

	1925-26.	1926-27.
	Rs.	Rs.
Issued in the Protectorate ...	39,462	32,532
Paid in the Protectorate...	1,18,341	1,24,739

Postal.

27. The following is a comparative table of postal statistics :—

	1925-26.	1926-27.
Letters	74,908	100,984
Post-cards	725	572
Newspapers	16,799	16,744
Book packets and Samples ...	699	690
Parcels	1,806	1,785

28. The weekly mail service from Aden has been carried out throughout the year by Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw and Brothers' steamers.

Mails are distributed by motor-car once a week to all the stations in the Protectorate except to Erigavo, Bulhar, and Zeilah, to which places there is a weekly service by runners.

Telegraphs.

29. Wireless stations (1½ Kilowatt) are in operation at Berbera, Burao, Hargeisa, Zeilah, and Erigavo.

There is an air-line from Berbera to Burao via Sheikh, which is used for telegraph and telephone communication.

30. The telegraph charges are :—

Six annas per word from any Protectorate station to Aden.

Two annas per word to any station within the Protectorate.

Rs. 1-14-0 per word to United Kingdom (half this rate is charged for deferred telegrams).

Rs. 1-6-0 per word to India (half this rate is charged for deferred telegrams).

X.—Public Works.

31. Work on the road from Berbera to Hargeisa via Habalo-Tomalo (referred to in the last Report) has been commenced. It is anticipated that when completed this road will bring a considerable increase of trade to Hargeisa.

A motor track has been cleared from Gosawein, just off the Burao-Erigavo road, to Hudin for the use of the military. The road from Bulhar to Zeilah was closed during the year.

32. The two cars of British manufacture now in the country have continued to put up a good performance and there are indications that several more British touring cars will be imported by Government officers next year.

The number of traders' cars has increased.

The Government has under contemplation the replacement of Ford one-ton lorries, and enquiries are being made with regard to light British-made commercial vehicles which have proved to be successful in other Colonies and Protectorates.

XI.—Veterinary.

33. During the year under review only three outbreaks of anthrax occurred, of short duration and of a very localised nature. Some 1,800 cattle were infected with pleuro-pneumonia-contagiosa, but were quickly got under control by quarantine and inoculation. Otherwise the country has been free from cattle disease.

Sambub in sheep and goats prevailed and caused a high mortality. Natives have been advised to isolate the sick animals and separate the infected herds from the healthy ones. Steps are being taken to alleviate the conditions.

34. The mares in the Government stud-farm appear to be in excellent condition. 15 foals were born and lived, and 24 more are expected. This is considered to be a very high percentage. It is hoped that in five years' time the stud-farm will be capable of supplying the requirements of the Protectorate.

XII.—Agriculture.

35. Early in the year a definite agricultural policy for the Protectorate was sanctioned. Owing to the present primitive state of native agriculture, it is essential, as a beginning, that an improvement be made in the methods of tillage and in the quality of crop universally grown. To this end, practical demonstration of the use and advantages of a light European plough and harrows have been made by the Director of Agriculture in native gardens, several garden-owners have been taught to use them, and already there is sufficient demand for them to warrant a number being ordered from the makers for purchase. Further, several different strains of jowari (*Sorghum*) seed, more or less suitable to the conditions, have been obtained from abroad, from which it is intended, after trial on a Government plot, to select one or two to replace the worn-out varieties at present cultivated.

A few of the garden-owners already have experience of the value of rotation crops, and seed for trial as a simple rotation has also been ordered.

In addition, steps are being taken to introduce new fodder grasses, and an attempt is about to be made to grow particular varieties of lucerne.

Owing, however, to the fact that new implements and new seed have been very late in arriving, few tangible results can be obtained before the next planting season. A considerable amount of interest in agricultural improvement has been aroused, and there is a reasonable prospect of permanent improvements being effected.

In Hargeisa Township native vegetable and fruit gradens have been laid out on a definite plan for allotment.

XIII.—Mineralogy.

36. During the year a prospecting licence was taken out for the mica-bearing area on the Mirso plateau, south of Berbera, and some four months' work was done by a representative of the licensee in systematic prospecting of the mica dykes. As a result, some excellent specimens of muscovite mica were obtained, and an expert in mica mining was commissioned by the syndicate concerned to report on the commercial prospects of the field. There is reason to believe the report was favourable, and, provided the capital necessary is forthcoming, work may be begun on mining leases on the field during next cool season.

Applications have also been made for a licence to prospect the occurrence of mica at Yubaleh Range, south of Zeilah.

A licence has been issued to prospect for galena and other minerals in the area south-east of Las Khoreh, and work will probably be begun in the area towards the end of the year.

The negotiations for the development of the oilfield at Dagah Shabell are nearing completion.

XIV.—Military.

37. Owing to the situation in the western part of Italian Somaliland, the Somaliland Camel Corps, King's African Rifles, has had to undertake an arduous and monotonous series of patrols in the eastern area of the Protectorate. There have been no active operations.

A. S. LAWRENCE.

Secretary to the Government.

THE SECRETARIAT,

BRITISH SOMALILAND,

9th September, 1927.

125,342

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1356.

HONG KONG.

REPORT FOR 1926.

*(For Report for 1924 see No. 1288 (Price 1s. 3d.), and for Report
for 1925 see No. 1324 (Price 1s. 6d.).)*



PRINTED IN HONG KONG.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller.

1927.

Price 1s. 3d. net.

58-23-0-26.

HONG KONG.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1926.

PREFACE.

The Colony of Hong Kong is situated off the south-eastern coast of China between latitude $22^{\circ} 9'$ and $22^{\circ} 17' N.$ and longitude $114^{\circ} 5'$ and $114^{\circ} 18' E.$ The island is about 11 miles long and 2 to 5 miles in breadth, its circumference being about 27 miles and its area $28\frac{3}{4}$ square miles. It consists of an irregular ridge of lofty hills rising to a height of nearly 2,000 feet above sea level, stretching nearly east and west, with few valleys of any extent and little ground available for cultivation.

The island, then desolate and sparsely inhabited by fishermen, was ceded to Great Britain in January, 1841, the cession being confirmed by the Treaty of Nankin in August, 1842; and the charter bears the date 5th April, 1843. All that part of Kowloon peninsula lying South of Kowloon Fort to the northernmost point of Stonecutter's Island together with that island was ceded to Great Britain under the Convention signed at Peking in October, 1860, and under the Convention signed at Peking in June, 1898, the area known as the New Territories including Mirs Bay and Deep Bay was leased to Great Britain by the Government of China for 99 years. The area of the New Territories and Islands is about 345 sq. miles.

Trade gradually developed as China became accustomed to foreign intercourse and it increased greatly owing to the opening of the Suez Canal. It now stands at about 200 million pounds sterling per annum.

Large local banking, dock, steamboat, and insurance companies were established between 1865 and 1872, and their numbers are being continually added to.

The Colony is the centre of an incessant flow of Chinese emigration and immigration.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The boycott of British trade and shipping which began at the same time as the strike in June, 1925 did not, like the strike, collapse rapidly. It continued in full force throughout nearly the whole of 1926 by means of armed strike pickets, whose livelihood depended on it. Officially it was called off by the Canton authorities on 10th October, but intimidators managed to enforce its continuance for some time longer. The trade of the Colony consequently suffered severely, but despite all the difficulties in their way, the British merchants in South China managed to do a certain amount of business, and all confidently looked forward to the better times to come.

Generally there was a feeling of calm optimism ; the Colony had not got through the wood yet, but our enemies, though they had, under Bolshevik influence, striven their utmost, had failed to ruin the trade of Hong Kong.

The Rents Ordinance, which restricted the landlords' right to raise rents was allowed to lapse after having been in force for four years.

The New Year opened with the fire on New Year's day at the Hong Kong Hotel, a great part of which was completely gutted. The damage was estimated at nearly two million dollars. There was one casualty ; a bluejacket, who was assisting in fighting the fire, fell from a window and died of his injuries.

As a result of the fire a Committee was appointed to consider the fire fighting organisation of the Colony. Most of the recommendations of the Committee have been adopted by the Government.

Another calamity befell Hong Kong when on the night of 19th 20th July, a terrific thunder-storm exceeding in intensity any storm recorded within the last thirty-five years burst over the Colony. Several buildings were struck by lightning, one Indian soldier being killed in the barracks of the Punjabi Regiment in Kowloon. Nearly 20 inches of rain fell in the space of 8 hours. The damage, to Government works and property exclusive of Military, Naval and private losses ran into well over a million dollars, and will not be fully repaired under about twelve months. There were landslides, roads were washed out, and nullahs torn up. A huge boulder crashed into the pumping station at Pokfulam, killing 4 men, and seriously interfering with the water supply to the hill districts for some weeks. The lower levels of the City of Victoria were flooded to a depth of several feet and all the ordinary activities of the Colony were suspended for some days. The Peak tram service was totally suspended for a week. The rapidity with which essential communications were restored reflects the greatest credit on the officers of the Public Works Department.

The number of piracies on steamships was greater than it had been for many years. The most serious case was that of the S.S. "Sunning", which whilst on a voyage from Amoy to Hong Kong was captured on November 15th, by pirates who had travelled disguised as passengers. Resourceful and daring action, for which the Chief and Second Officers of the ship were mainly responsible, led to the re capture of the bridge. The pirates endeavoured to dislodge the officers from the bridge, but were repulsed time after time. Finally they set fire to the vessel, but the fire though it greatly damaged the ship did not help the pirates, all of whom were, so far as can be ascertained, either killed, drowned or captured. Of those captured eight were convicted of piracy and hanged.

A Commission was appointed to enquire into and report on anti-piracy measures in general but its report had not been issued by the end of the year.

Two large buildings were opened during the year, *viz*, the Government Offices and Fire Station on Connaught Road opposite the Central Market, and the new Banque de l'Indo-Chine building on Queen's Road.

An investiture was held at Government House on 13th March, when H. R. H. Prince George, K.G., G.C.V.O., invested His Excellency the Governor, Sir Cecil Clementi as K.C.M.G., Knighted the Hon. Sir Shou-son Chow and invested the Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax with the badge of C.M.G., Mr. George Duncan with the badge of M.B.E. and Mr. George White with the Royal Albert Medal.

At the 17th Congregation of the University of Hong Kong held on 12th January, the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) was conferred on His Excellency the Governor, Sir Cecil Clementi, K.C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. R. H. Kotewall, Mr. R. Ponsonby Fane, and Sir R. E. Stubbs, K.C.M.G., (in absentia).

The news of the death in England on 25th May of the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak came as a shock to the Colony. The late Mr. Holyoak had been an indefatigable worker both as an Unofficial member of the Legislative and Executive Councils, and as Chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Two days later on 27th May, there passed away in Hong Kong the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., the most prominent figure in the public and commercial life of modern Hong Kong. Sir Paul had spent over sixty years in the Colony, during which period he had devoted himself not only to business but also to the general welfare of the community. He was first appointed to the Legislative Council in 1886, and was an Unofficial Member of the Executive Council from 1896 to the time of his death.

On 29th August, Mr. Ho Fook, a scion of a well known Chinese family in Hong Kong, died. Mr. Ho Fook before his retirement from active participation in the affairs of the community had been an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, and had been a leading member of all the most important of the Chinese public bodies.

The Hon. Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, C.M.G., C.B.E., Acting Colonial Secretary who had served as a Cadet Officer in Hong Kong for 24 years left on 9th January for Ceylon, of which Colony he had been appointed Colonial Secretary.

On 1st May, the Honourable Mr. W. T. Southorn of the Ceylon Civil Service arrived in Hong Kong and took up the duties of the post of Colonial Secretary.

I.—FINANCES.

The revenue for the year amounted to \$21,131,582 being \$235,161 less than the estimate and \$2,112,783 less than the revenue for the previous year.

Compared with the returns for 1925 there were decreases under all the heads except Kowloon-Canton Railway, Licences and Internal Revenue and Miscellaneous Receipts.

The expenditure amounted to a total of \$23,524,716 inclusive of a sum of \$4,720,000 spent on Public Works Extraordinary.

The detailed figures for 1926 are set out in the following statements:—

HEADS OF REVENUE.	\$	c.
Light Dues - - - - -	110,543	80
Light Dues, Special Assessment - - -	127,655	26
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise specified - - - - -	14,020,850	58
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for specific purposes, and Reimbursements in Aid -	1,488,587	15
Post Office - - - - -	766,539	87
Kowloon-Canton Railway - - - - -	538,044	73
Rent of Government Property, Land, and Houses - - - - -	1,264,799	24
Interest - - - - -	237,443	67
Miscellaneous Receipts - - - - -	2,290,775	73
TOTAL, (Ordinary)- - - - -	\$20,845,240	03
Land Sales, (Premia on New Leases) - -	286,341	61
TOTAL - - - - -	\$21,131,581	64

The total expenditure brought to account amounted to \$23,524,716 being \$265,899 less than the estimate, and \$4,724,102 less than the expenditure in 1925. Miscellaneous Services exceeded the estimate by \$230,130 chiefly on account of the upkeep of emergency organisations brought into existence by the political situation.

Military Expenditure exceeded the estimate by \$173,824.

EXPENDITURE.	\$	c.
Governor - - - - -	115,162.79	
Cadet Service - - - - -	292,521.59	
Junior Clerical Service - - - - -	669,125.82	
Colonial Secretary's Department and Legis-		
lature - - - - -	55,136.12	
Secretariat for Chinese Affairs - - - - -	8,147.42	
Audit Department - - - - -	45,609.05	
Treasury - - - - -	25,045.41	
Harbour Master's Department - - - - -	619,442.78	
Imports & Exports Department - - - - -	667,665.32	
Royal Observatory - - - - -	45,158.87	
Miscellaneous Services - - - - -	990,467.63	
Judicial and Legal Departments - - - - -	267,171.45	
Police Force - - - - -	1,745,084.97	
Fire Brigade - - - - -	206,232.50	
Prison Department - - - - -	472,337.42	
Medical Department - - - - -	723,228.88	
Sanitary Department - - - - -	569,392.24	
Botanical and Forestry Department - - - - -	87,541.09	
Education Department - - - - -	910,063.09	
Military Expenditure - - - - -	4,247,038.09	
Public Works Department - - - - -	1,248,864.89	
Do. Recurrent - - - - -	1,822,816.80	
Do. Extraordinary - - - - -	4,720,000.19	
Port Development Department - - - - -	59,299.30	
Port Works Extraordinary - - - - -	526,670.93	
Post Office - - - - -	120,848.45	
Kowloon-Canton Railway - - - - -	766,402.88	
Charge on Account of Public Debt - - - - -	803,272.29	
Pensions - - - - -	578,765.67	
Charitable Services - - - - -	115,842.01	
TOTAL - - - - -	\$23,524,715.94	

The balance to the debit on the year's working was \$2,393,134 and the assets and liabilities account showed on the 31st December a credit balance of \$3,486,290.54.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the five years 1922-1926 :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	\$	\$
1922	22,291,065	18,563,003
1923	24,783,763	21,571,905
1924	24,209,640	26,726,428
1925	23,244,365	28,266,870
1926	21,131,582	23,524,716

The amount of the consolidated loan stands at £1,485,733. Against this there is at credit of the Sinking Fund a sum of £533,787. The Local Loan under Ordinance No. 12 of 1916 amounts to \$3,000,000 and there are the sums of \$1,834,927 and £120,653 at credit of the Sinking Fund.

A new valuation for Assessment was made for the year commencing 1st July, 1926, resulting as follows:—

Increases:—

The City of Victoria	... ..	\$ 701,338
The Hill District	... ..	13,940
Hong Kong Villages	... ..	88,567
Yauwatti	... ..	5,380
Mongkoktsui	... ..	6,115
Hunghom and Hok Un	... ..	2,530
Kowloon Villages	... ..	8,212

Decreases:

New Territories	... ..	48,555
Shaukiwan, Saiwanho and Quarry Bay	...	36,317
Kowloon Point	... ..	30,825

The rateable value of the whole Colony amounted to \$27,998,237 having increased by \$710,357.

During the period 1917-1926 the assessment of the whole Colony has risen from \$14,410,153 to \$27,998,237, an increase in rateable value of \$13,588,084.

The circulation on the 31st December of notes of the three Banks having authorised issues was as follows:—

Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	... ..	\$ 50,842,258
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, & China	... ..	15,612,909
Mercantile Bank of India, Limited	...	1,730,584
		<hr/>
		\$ 68,185,751

The currency of the Colony consists, in addition to the notes of these Banks, of British, Hong Kong, and Mexican Dollars and of subsidiary coin, which continued at par throughout the year.

The total issue of subsidiary coins, less those demonetized, now amounts to \$17,914,370 nominal value, and they were up to the year 1905 readily absorbed at par, large quantities being taken by the neighbouring provinces of China. During 1916 ten cent pieces of the face value of \$5,028,000 were shipped to Calcutta for purposes of demonetization. The discount which prevailed between 1905 and 1916 may be attributed to the immense quantity of similar coin which was minted at Canton as well as to the amount of Hong Kong coin minted largely in excess of the needs of the Colony by itself. In 1905 the Hong Kong Government ceased to issue any subsidiary coin and in 1906 it began a policy of demonetising all its subsidiary coin received as revenue. This policy

was continuously followed till 1918 except during a brief period in 1911. Coin to the face value of \$26,235,459 has thus been redeemed. The total issue by the Hong Kong Government was of the face value of \$44,099,830.

STATEMENT OF SUBSIDIARY COINS.

Received and redeemed (from 1911)

Blue Book 1911. Amount in circulation.	\$43,999,830
Since received :—Copper coin.	
1919... ..	25,000,000
1923... ..	25,000,000
1924... ..	50,000,000
1925... ..	25,000,000
1926... ..	25,000,000
	<u>150,000</u>
Total Amount put into circulation	<u>\$44,119,830</u>

Less since redeemed :—

1911... ..	5,527,459.04
1912... ..	1,040,000.00
1913... ..	1,040,000.00
1914... ..	5,000,000.00
1915... ..	5,100,000.00
1916... ..	5,028,000.00
1918... ..	500,000.00
1922... ..	3,000,000.00
	<u>26,235,459.04</u>

Total Amount of coin in circulation in 1926...\$17,914,370.96

II.—SHIPPING AND TRADE, INDUSTRIES, FISHERIES, AGRICULTURE, AND LAND.

(a.)—SHIPPING.

The total Shipping entering and clearing at Ports in the Colony during the year 1926 amounted to 310,361 vessels of 36,821,364 tons, which compared with the figures of 1925 show a decrease of 68,806 vessels and a decrease of 4,648,220 tons.

Of the above 30,231 vessels of 28,371,104 tons were engaged in Foreign Trade as compared with 41,336 vessels of 32,179,053 tons, in 1925.

There was a decrease in British ocean-going shipping of 515 ships of 609,403 tons. This decrease in ships and tonnage is due to the boycott in China generally.

Foreign ocean-going vessels shows a decrease of 1,295 ships and a decrease of 1,729,675 tons. This decrease in ships and tonnage is due to the boycott in China generally.

British river steamers show an increase of 228 ships and an increase of 18,314 tons or 43.0% in numbers and 16.3% in tonnage. This increase in ships and tonnage is due to the vessels again running on the Canton and West rivers.

Foreign river steamers show a decrease of 1,036 ships and a decrease of 345,143 tons. This decrease in ships and tonnage is due to the foreign river steamers not running until the latter part of the year.

In steamships not exceeding 60 tons employed in foreign trade there is a decrease of 2,557 ships with a decrease in tonnage of 78,167 tons. This decrease in launches and tonnage is due to the boycott in China generally.

A comparison between the years 1925 and 1926 is given in the following table:—

Class of Vessels	1925.		1926.		Decrease.		Increase.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British Ocean-going,	3,916	9,866,820	3,401	9,257,417	515	609,403	...	...
Foreign Ocean-going,	5,763	13,786,954	4,468	12,057,279	1,295	1,729,675	...	...
British River Steamers, ...	4,058	5,455,115	4,276	5,473,429	...	...	218	18,314
Foreign River Steamers, ...	1,266	452,878	230	107,735	1,036	345,143	..	...
Steamships under 60 tons (Foreign Trade)	5,386	165,497	2,829	87,330	2,557	78,167	...	...
Junks, Foreign Trade,	20,947	2,451,789	15,027	1,387,914	5,920	1,063,875	...	...
Total, Foreign Trade,	41,336	32,179,053	30,231	28,371,104	11,323	3,826,263	218	18,314
Steam Launches plying in Water of the Colony, ...	310,924	8,050,939	249,902	6,975,072	61,012	1,075,867	...	...
Junks, Local Trade,	*26,917	*1,239,592	†30,218	†1,475,188	...	...	3,301	235,596
Grand Total ..	379,177	41,469,584	310,361	36,821,364	72,335	4,902,130	3,519	253,910
Net Decrease,					68,816	4,648,220	...	...

† Including 15,890 Conservancy and Dust Boats of 693,660 tons.

* " 16,294 " " " " of 736,688 "

Junks in foreign trade show a decrease of 5,290 vessels, and a decrease of 1,063,875 tons. This decrease is due to the boycott in China generally.

In local trade (*i.e.* between places within the waters of the Colony) there is a decrease in steam-launches of 126,024 and a decrease in tonnage of 2,151,743 tons. This decrease in numbers and tonnage is due to the recent strike and the boycott in China generally.

Junks in Local trade show an increase of 3,301 vessels and an increase of 235,596 tons. This increase in vessels is due principally to junks held in Canton and districts in 1925 during the boycott being released and coming to Hong Kong waters and remaining here for local trading.

Of vessels of European construction 3,930 ocean steamers, 2,244 river steamers and 1,399 steamships not exceeding 60 tons entered during the year, giving a daily average of 20·8 ships as compared with 28·9 ships in 1925 and 41·2 ships in 1924.

Thus :—

Flag.	Steamers.		No. of times entered.		Total Tonnage.	
	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.
British,	371	339	1,946	1,686	4,922,197	4,597,357
Japanese,	269	207	1,153	755	2,826,465	2,236,359
U.S.A.,	69	69	224	236	1,370,638	1,510,383
Chinese,	65	61	323	606	365,450	245,697
German,	33	34	78	90	332,495	337,318
Danish,	12	14	42	23	117,249	78,025
Dutch,	45	40	244	232	754,440	785,696
French,	26	31	177	108	453,272	445,567
Italian,	13	9	35	27	130,895	127,870
Panamanian,	2	1	2	1	3,239	9,953
Chilean,	7	—	126	—	71,549	—
Norwegian,	55	47	286	111	319,006	152,641
Portuguese,	9	5	109	33	16,166	23,856
Russian,	1	1	1	1	915	241
Siamese,	1	—	1	—	377	—
Swedish,	7	7	15	12	58,915	46,180
Spanish,	3	3	14	8	37,670	19,236
Belgian,	—	1	—	1	—	3,181
Total,	1,015	869	4,776	3,930	11,810,938	10,619,560

The Nationalities of the Crews in British and in Foreign Ships were as follows :—

	VESSELS.		BRITISH CREW.		OTHER EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS.		ASIATICS.	
	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.
British, ..	371	339	32,498	36,391	1,320	809	165,776	286,579
Foreign,	644	530	741	611	39,395	38,618	175,884	149,135
Total, ...	1,015	869	33,239	37,002	40,715	39,427	341,660	435,714

Hence in British ships :—

1925.	1926.	
16·28 %	11·24 %	of the crews were British.
00·66 %	00·25 %	of the crews were other Europeans & Americans.
83·06 %	88·51 %	of the crews were Asiatics.

<u>100·00 %</u>	<u>100·00 %</u>
-----------------	-----------------

and in Foreign ships:—

1925.	1926.	
00·34 %	00·33 %	of the crews were British.
18·24 %	20·50 %	of the crews were other Europeans & Americans.
81·42 %	79·17 %	of the crews were Asiatics.

<u>100·00 %</u>	<u>100·00 %</u>
-----------------	-----------------

TRADE.

The number and tonnage of ships of European type of construction carrying cargo for import and transit compared with 1925 were as follows :—

	1925.		1926.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage
Steamers,	4,776	11,810,938	3,930	10,619,560	846	1,191,378
River Steamers,	3,085	2,947,848	2,244	2,775,474	841	172,374
Sailing Vessels,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total,	7,861	14,758,786	6,174	13,395,034	1,687	1,363,752

Decrease..... 1,687 1,363,752

The corresponding figures relating to ships of European type of construction, shipping bunker coal, are as follows:—

EXPORTS.

	1925.		1926.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steamers,	4,903	11,842,836	3,930	10,635,126	...	...	973	1,147,700
River Steamers,	2,239	2,960,145	2,262	2,805,690	23	...	...	154,455
Total,	7,142	14,802,981	6,192	13,500,826	23	...	973	1,302,155
Nett Decrease, ...								
					...	...	950	1,302,155

	1925.		1926.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Bunker Coal. Tons.	No.	Bunker Coal. Tons.	No.	Bunker Coal. Tons.	No.	Bunker Coal. Tons.
Steamers,	4,903	355,707	3,930	252,752	...	...	973	102,955
River Steamers,	2,239	94,061	2,262	41,504	23	...	...	52,557
Total,	7,142	449,768	6,192	294,256	23	...	973	155,512
Nett Decrease, ...								
					...	...	950	155,512

The River Trade compared with 1925 is shown in the following Table :—

Year.	Imports. Tons.	Exports. Tons.	Passengers.
1925.....	201,128	318,502	1,800,474
1926..	117,421	123,322	1,071,211

The following Tables show the Junk Trade of the Colony for the year 1925 and 1926 :—

IMPORTS.

1925.		1926.	
<i>Junks.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Junks.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
Foreign Trade,.....	10,196	7,388	704,111
Local Trade,.....	5,327	6,859	323,352
Total,	15,523	14,247	1,027,463

<i>Cargo.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Cattle, 309 heads,	35
Swine, 13,254 heads,.....	777
General,.....	267,587
Total,.....	268,399

EXPORTS.

1925.		1926.	
<i>Junks.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Junks.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
Foreign Trade,.....	10,751	7,639	683,803
Local Trade,.....	5,700	7,065	415,148
Total,	16,451	14,704	1,098,951

<i>Cargo.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Kerosine, 581,148 Cases,	20,660
Rice and Paddy,	6,376
Coal,	13,591
General,.....	324,506
Total,.....	365,133

Emigration and Immigration.

Two hundred and sixteen thousand, five hundred and twenty-seven (216,527) emigrants left Hong Kong for various places during the year 1926, (140,534 in 1925). Of these, 131,656 were carried in British ships, and 84,871 in foreign ships.

One hundred and twenty-eight thousand, six hundred and sixty-one (128,661) returning emigrants were reported to have been brought to Hong Kong from the several places to which they had emigrated either from this colony or from coast ports, as against 91,622 in 1925. Of these, 76,147 arrived in British ships, and 52,514 in foreign ships.

Statement of number of emigrants to Straits Settlements, 1915 to 1926, compared with total Chinese emigration.

	No. of Emigrants to Straits Settlements.	Total No. of Emigrants.
1915	41,278	68,275
1916	82,797	117,653
1917	63,292	96,298
1918	8,019	43,830
1919	11,638	59,969
1920	43,935	105,258
1921	87,324	156,011
1922	50,356	98,393
1923	65,584	120,224
1924	75,682	129,859
1925	97,552	140,534
1926	157,285	216,527

(b.)—INDUSTRIES.

Sugar.—At the commencement of the year prices of raws were low in consequence of the over production during 1925. As there were prospects of the Cuban crop for 1925-26 exceeding that of the previous year the Cuban Congress decided to limit the outturn by legislation. This resulted in strengthening the market and prices of raws advanced, especially towards the end of the year. The value of refined responded to this to some extent, but on account of the continued disturbances throughout China demand was considerably curtailed and prices consequently did not reach a corresponding level.

Rope Making.—The demand for Manila cordage for 1926 was restricted owing to depression in Shipping and the Political trouble in China.

(c.)—FISHERIES.

A considerable proportion of the boat population of Hong Kong supports itself by deep-sea fishing, in which pursuit a large number of junks are engaged. The villages of Aberdeen, Stanley, Shaukwan, and also many in the New Territories, are largely dependent upon this industry for their prosperity. Fresh water fish is imported from Canton and the West River. There are oyster beds of considerable value in Deep Bay.

(d.)—FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE, AND BOTANY.

Formation of Pine tree plantations.

The extension of old plantations and formation of new ones were carried on both on the Island and in the new Territories. seeds of *Pinus Massoniana* were sown *in situ* to the number of 18,700 on low hills adjoining Pokfulam Reservoir, 27,000 on hills adjoining Kowloon Service Reservoir and 24,800 at Shek Li Pui. the total weight of seeds used was fifty-six pounds.

On areas thickly covered with grass and small shrubs, seeds of *Pinus Massoniana* were sown by the broadcast method, the areas dealt with were hills at Shek Li Pui, Tai-po Forestry Reserve, Fan Ling and banks below and above roads at Shek O, Tai-po, Castle Peak. Stubbs and Magazine Gap; the total weight of seeds used was 1,100 pounds.

Other Broadcast Seed Sowing.

110 pounds of seeds of *Leucaena glauca* were sown broadcast on grassy slopes in many parts of the Colony.

Broad-leaved trees planted.

One year old trees of *Cinnamomum Camphora* to the number of 4,300 were added to the existing plantation at Tai Wo Po.

Large numbers of trees were used in the extension and maintenance of roadside planting, the species used being *Melaleuca Leucadendron*, *Cinnamomum Camphora*, *Bauhinia Blakeana*, *Bauhinia variegata*, *Celtis sinensis*, *Poinciana regia*, *Bischofia javanica*, *Albizia Lebbek*, *Eriodendron anfractuosum*, (Kapok), *Sterculia lanceolata*, *Tristania conferta*, *Crataeva religiosa*, *Aleurites Fordii*, *Aleurites montana* and *Aleurites triloba*.

On Cheung Chau Island various trees to the number of 431 were planted on plots adjoining public paths and buildings.

Care of trees in plantations.

Thick undergrowth and creepers were cleared from the more recently established plantations, in the older plantations thinning was carried out, large creepers cut and clumps of *Loranthus* removed.

Large numbers of *Tristania conferta* and *Cinnamomum Camphora* were given a dressing of Solignum to prevent damage by white ants.

Pine tree plantations were free from attack by caterpillars, this most fortunate circumstance being very probably due to unfavourable weather conditions during an early stage of the life cycle of the pest.

Protection from fire.

The new fire barrier round the Hin Tin Tsun forestry area was completed in August, new barriers 20 feet in breadth were cut round every grave on hills above and below Shek O Road.

The majority of all old fire barriers were cleared before the commencement of the dry season, the total length dealt with amounted to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles in Hong Kong, 7 miles in the New Territories and 5 miles at Fan Ling. The work was still in progress at the end of the year.

All forestry paths were cleared of undergrowth, rocks and other debris, small portions which has been washed out were re-cut and resurfaced.

Nurseries, Agriculture, &c.

Fan Ling Experimental Garden. Two plots of Jute (*Corchorus capsularis* and *Corchorus olitorius*) were tried for the first time, the first named grew well and reached a height of 7 feet when it was harvested and retted, samples were forwarded to the Imperial Institute and a report received in due course stated that the fibre was of excellent quality.

Two plots of a large variety of Ground Nuts were planted in an area heavily dressed with vegetable ash and common lime, a heavy crop of excellent nuts was harvested, so far attempts at inducing the farmers to use the improved variety of nut have not been successful.

One plot of Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) was raised, 33 per cent of the young plants (which are biennial) survived the heavy summer rains and were healthy at the end of the year. In due course the fresh leaves will be supplied to the Medical Department.

Little Hong Kong and Kowloon Tsai Tree Nurseries. Large numbers of seedling trees were raised for use on the Island in the former and for the New Territories in the latter.

China Fir (*Cunninghamia sinensis*) seeds collected locally were sown in both nurseries and give a high percentage of germination, formerly all young trees were raised from cuttings which were not easily obtainable.

Camphor seedlings to the total number of 12,156 were raised and basketed in readiness for planting in the following year.

Tai-po Forestry Reserve. Further additions were made to the plantations on the lower slopes of the reserve, trees planted were *Aleurites montana* 1,840, *Artocarpus integrifolia* 390, and *Cinnamomum Camphora* 2,300.

At the upper end of the reserve and where the grass is shorter a large area was sown by the broadcast method with seeds of *Pinus Massoniana* and *Pinus radiata*.

Large numbers of seedling trees of various species were raised in the nursery.

The first and second rice crops were good.

Ginger was extensively planted and harvested and was of very good quality.

There was a noticeable increase in planting of both summer and winter vegetables. Such vegetables were of fair quality only but found a ready market.

There was a good crop of the poor variety of Ground Nut.

Inspection of Nursery Stocks.

Owing to the fact that the importation of bulbs of *Narcissus Tazetta* into the United States of America is now prohibited, very small numbers of the bulbs passed through the Colony during the year; formerly a very extensive trade was carried on between the bulb growers in Amoy and the United States of America.

Six consignments totalling 156,880 bulbs were inspected and certificated as against 100 consignments totalling 1,450,660 in 1925.

(c).—LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The net amount of premium received from Sales of Crown Land exclusive of the New Territories during the year 1926 was \$252,530.95 a decrease of \$114,995.82 on the preceding year and \$1,558,107.64 less than the average of the previous five years; this average is however an unusually high one as it covers the years of the land boom.

The principal items were \$95,031.25 for Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1992, \$25,810.00 for Inland Lot No. 2615, \$24,630 for Inland Lot No. 1946 and \$22,525 for Inland Lot No. 2614.

In the New Territories the net amount received for premium was \$26,091.79.

The total area of land granted during the year was 1,386 Acres 3 Roods and $1\frac{1}{2}$ poles of which 209 Acres and $8\frac{1}{2}$ Poles were dealt with by the District Officers.

The total area resumed was 2,065 Acres 2 Roods $34\frac{2}{3}$ Poles including two large mining lots for which mining licences have since been granted.

The number of deeds registered in the Land Office was 4,360 which is a slight increase on the preceding year.

The Northern District of the New Territories has not yet recovered from the Conditions which prevailed in 1925; the demand for building sites in the development areas is still small, on the other hand in rural area there is quite a good demand for agricultural land and many new Village houses are being erected.

In the Southern District there was an almost complete cessation of demand for sites. No European or industrial applications were received, and only three agricultural lots, *viz.* at Mui Wo, Lantau Island.

There were a few applications for sites on Lantau plateau but these were held up pending completion of the cadastral survey. Considerable trouble has been experienced in securing the fulfilment of Building Covenants relating to lots already sold.

III. -LEGISLATION.

Sixteen (16) ordinances were passed during 1926, of which five were amendments of previous ordinances.

The most important matters with which these ordinances dealt were :—

The Regulations (No. 1)—The object of this ordinance was to authorise the preparation of a new edition of the regulations in force in the Colony at the end of 1925.

The Rating (Refunds), (No. 3)—The object of this ordinance was to refund rates.

The Former Enemy Aliens, (Disabilities Removal) (No. 4)—The object of this ordinance was to repeal certain enactments imposing disabilities on former enemy aliens.

The Hong Kong Treasury Bills (Local). (No. 5)—The object of this ordinance was to authorise the Governor-in-Council to borrow by the issue in Hong Kong of Hong Kong Government Treasury bills.

The Hong Kong Treasury Bills (London), (No. 6)—The object of this ordinance was to authorise the Governor-in-Council to request the Crown Agents for the Colonies to borrow by the issue in London of Hong Kong Government Treasury bills.

The Bank of Canton Limited (Capital Conversion). (No. 8)—The object of this ordinance was to empower the Company to convert gold capital into silver.

The Wireless Telegraphy (No. 11)—The objects of this ordinance were to make it necessary for receiving sets to be licensed and to make it an offence to maintain, or possess, a wireless telegraph station without a license.

The Trade Loan (No. 13)—The object of this ordinance was to charge a certain loan upon the general revenue and assets of the colony of Hong Kong.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The European staff was increased by nine during the year.

The total number of pupils at schools in the Colony excluding the Police School are :—

Number of Pupils.			
	English Schools.	Vernacular Schools.	Total.
Government Schools -	3,280	293	3,573
Military Schools - - -	136	--	136
Excluded Private Schools	150	--	150
Grant Schools - - -	3,901	1,041	4,942
Controlled Private Schools - - - -	3,376	21,088	24,464
Controlled Private Schools, New Terri- tories - - - -	15	4,890	4,905
Technical Institute - -	460	--	460
Total - - -	11,318	27,312	38,630

The most important schools are *Queen's College* and *King's College* for Chinese, three *District Schools* their feeders and the *Belilios Public School* for Chinese girls. There is an *Indian School* of growing importance housed in a building presented to the Colony by the late Sir Ellis Kadoorie. *The Central School* and *Kowloon Junior, Victoria and Quarry Bay Schools* for children of

British parentage have an average attendance of 272. There is also a school for the children of the Peak District with an average attendance of 42. The *Diocesan School* and *St. Joseph's College* are important boys' schools in receipt of an annual grant. The *Italian, French, and St. Mary's Convents*, the *Diocesan Girls' School*, and the *St. Stephen's Girls School* are the most important of the English Grant Schools for girls. There are two Vernacular Normal Schools for Men and Women respectively, and one Vernacular Middle School.

The Hong Kong Technical Institute affords an opportunity for higher education of students who have left school. Instruction was given in 1926 in Building Construction, Chemistry (Practical and Theoretical), Physics, Electricity, Commercial English, French, Shorthand, Book-keeping and Cookery. Classes for men and women teachers, both "English" and "Vernacular" are a feature of the Institute.

The lecturers are recruited from the members of the medical and educational faculties of the Colony, and from the Department of Public Works, and receive fees for their services. The Institute is furnished with a well equipped chemical laboratory and excellent physical apparatus.

The *University of Hong Kong* was incorporated under a local University Ordinance, 1911, and opened in 1912. It is a residential University and open to students of both sexes.

The late Sir Hormusjee Mody bore the entire expense of the erection of the main building and additions have been made through the liberality of benefactors of varied nationality and domicile. The latest addition to the buildings is a workshop built out of a contribution from Sir Robert Ho Tung.

The annual income of the University now amounts to about \$510,000 of which about \$315,000 comes from endowments and \$50,000 from Government. Messrs. Butterfield and Swire gave £40,000 to the original endowment fund and subsequently \$100,000 for engineering equipment. The Rockefeller Institution has endowed the University with three chairs in surgery, medicine and obstetrics, the endowment being in each case \$250,000.

The expenditure for the year 1926 amounted to \$495,556.

The University includes the three Faculties of Medicine, Engineering and Arts. Admission to all faculties is conditional upon passing the matriculation examination of the University or some examination recognised as equivalent thereto.

The Faculty of Medicine provides a six year course of study in the usual pre-medical and medical sciences, leading to the degree of M.B., and B.S. The degrees of M.D., and M.S., may

be obtained for post-graduate work. The degrees above mentioned are recognised by the General Medical Council for registration in Great Britain.

The Faculty of Engineering provides a four year course in practical and theoretical engineering, leading to the degree of B.Sc., (Eng.). Fourth year students specialize in civil, in mechanical or in electrical engineering. The degree for post-graduate work is that of M.Sc., (Eng.).

The Faculty of Arts includes departments of pure arts and science, social science, commerce and a department for training teachers. The course is in all cases one of four years and leads to the degree of B.A. The degree for post-graduate work is that of M.A.

With a view to securing the maintenance of the desired standard—which is in all three faculties that of a British University degree—external examiners are, in all faculties, associated with the internal examiners in all annual final examinations. In the Faculty of Engineering, but not in other faculties, degrees with honours are granted, the standard being assessed by special examiners chosen from amongst the external examiners in the University of London.

The degree of LL.D., is granted, *honoris causa*.

The site of the University was given by the Government of Hong Kong. As subsequently enlarged by minor grants and by purchase, the University estate covers an area of 709,789 sq. ft. The view from the grounds over the harbour is magnificent and the grounds are naturally beautiful.

In the main buildings are housed the chemical and physical laboratories, the University library and portions of the engineering laboratories. They further include the Great Hall, a Senate room and the lecture and class rooms used by the Faculty of Arts and for general purposes.

Special medical buildings include schools of anatomy, physiology, pathology and tropical medicine, erected at the cost of Chinese gentlemen resident in the Colony. Clinical instruction is given at the Government Civil Hospital.

Special engineering buildings include :—

- (a) a power station, generating light and power for the estate, energy being supplied by internal combustion engines of varied types which are available for instructional purposes ;
- (b) a prime movers (steam) and hydraulics laboratory, at present housed in a converted pumping station, formerly the property of the Government ; and
- (c) A workshop, for practical instruction of students.

Electrical machinery (other than the main generating plant), electrical technology, the testing of materials and experimental mechanics are dealt with in the main building.

The larger part of the engineering equipment was the gift of British engineering firms.

Other buildings upon the estate include :—

- (a) the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge
- (b) Staff-quarters
- (c) the resident hostels, and
- (d) the University Union Building.

Unless exempted from residence (such exemption being ordinarily granted on the ground that the student's "manner of life" is not such as is catered for in the hostels), every matriculated student is required to reside either in a University or recognised hostel.

The University hostels are three in number—Lugard Hall, Eliot Hall and May Hall.

Recognised hostels are at present two in number—Morrison Hall, situated immediately above the University grounds and conducted by the London Missionary Society, and St. John's Hall, immediately opposite the front of the University, conducted by the Church Missionary Society.

Each student occupies a separate room or cubicle, and there are the usual common rooms. Each University hostel is in charge of a member of the staff, as resident warden.

No University hostel at present exists for women students—whose right to admission to the University was first recognised in 1921; but some arrangements for the accommodation of a few women students in a rented building have been made by the authorities of St. Stephen's Girls' College, a Church of England girls' school which is near the University. The nuns of a neighbouring Italian convent are also prepared to house a few women students.

The tuition fee is \$300—the hostel fee which includes board and lodging is \$300. A student who is allowed to live in a hostel during a vacation—some have to because of their work, *e.g.* medical students, and others because their homes are too far away—pay at the rate of \$8 a week. When a student joins he is required to deposit caution money to the extent of \$25, and to pay a registration fee of \$5. The annual subscription to the University Union is \$15 and this covers the annual subscription to practically all the athletic clubs. The graduation fee is \$25. Probably about \$1,200 represents the minimum amount which at present prices would cover a student's annual expenses including vacations. It would cost a

Chinese student who goes abroad \$2,500 a year at the very least, and this would not cover travelling expenses.

Numerous scholarships are available, including the King Edward VII Scholarships founded by His Majesty's Government. There are also scholarships provided by the Governments of Hong Kong, of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, of Kedah and Siam.

The Union is the centre of the social life of the students. It is at once a Club and a centre of athletics. The Union Committee contains certain members of the University teaching staff, but its President and Secretary are undergraduates elected by the undergraduates. The undergraduate members of the Committee are also elected by their fellow students. There is a Union magazine with English and Chinese sections. The editors are students, a member of the teaching staff acting as assistant editor. There are twenty-one women students; these women students are all members of the Union.

Students of the University come from Kwangtung, Chilhi, Hankow, Hupeh, Yunnan, Hunan, Shanghai, Peking, Fukien, Singapore, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Kedah, Jahore, Java, Manila, Burma, Siam, Japan, India and Macao. The present enrolment is 289 of whom 248 are Chinese and 43 non-Chinese.

PUBLIC WORKS.

BUILDINGS.

During the year progress as stated was made on the following works:—

Hong Kong.—Work on the new Fire Brigade Station proceeded satisfactorily and the building was completed and occupied during the period September to December.

The following works were also completed during the year:—

New King's College, the New Sisters' Quarters to the Government Civil Hospital and the Alterations to the Victoria Hospital. Work on the Additional Quarters in Ventris Road was recommenced in March and continued satisfactorily to the end of the year.

Kowloon.—The small amount of work remaining to be done to the New Hospital was completed early in the year and a few minor improvements were carried out to other buildings.

New Kowloon.—The work for the New Gaol at Ngau Shi Wan was left in abeyance.

New Territories.—Married Quarters for Chinese Police were completed at the following stations:—Cheung Chau, Sai Kung, Taiipo and Sha Tau Kok.

The work of erection of Quarters for Cadets at Canton was suspended until about the end of October ; from this time until the end of the year satisfactory progress was made.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Hong Kong.—The work on the road contouring Wong Nei Chong and Tai Hang Valleys made slow progress, owing to difficulty with resumptions of lots at Tai Hang Village : the section near Tai Hang Village remains uncompleted.

The work on the road from Causeway Bay to Quarry Bay was held in abeyance.

The Road construction in the Wong Nei Chong Development Scheme made fair progress.

Kowloon.—The removal of the hill obstruction at the junction of Nathan Road and Gascoigne Road was completed.

To Kwa Wan Road and Argyle Street Extension to Waterloo Road made fair progress.

The work on Chatham Road proceeded slowly and the contract was closed before the end of the year.

The Mong Kok-Kowloon City road was completed.

New Kowloon.—Waterloo Road from Kowloon Boundary to foot hills made fair progress.

New Territories.—The Fanling-Sha Tau Kok Road and the widening of all the bridges on the Castle Peak-Fanling Road, including those at Au Tau and Kam T'sin, were completed. The construction of the approach to the New Bridge at Tai Po to replace that washed away in 1925 made fair progress.

DRAINAGE.

Hong Kong.—Considerable progress was made on the reconstruction of Wong Nei Chong Nullah, sections 1 and 2 (from Blue Pool to the Race Stands) being practically completed.

New Sewers and storm water drains were constructed, to the extent of 6,500 feet.

Good progress was made with the re-drainage of the area between the Praya and Queen's Road East, in connection with the Praya East Reclamation Scheme.

Kowloon.—The Ma Tau Chung Nullah was completed. Storm water drains from 15" to 66" in diameter were constructed in the Matauchung District, to a length of 5,600 feet.

The main sewer from Fuk Tsun Heung to Kowloon Tong, east of the Railway, was completed. It varies in size from 6" to 33" and is 8,500 feet in length.

Other sewers and storm water drains were constructed to the extent of 7,000 feet.

New Kowloon.—The drainage of the Kowloon Tong Development Area was proceeded with, sewers and storm water drains being constructed to the extent of 6,500 feet and 3,000 feet respectively.

Other sewers and storm water drains were laid to the extent of 2,900 feet.

The extension of the Mong Kok Tsui Nullah from the Old Kowloon Boundary to the Kowloon range of hills progressed slowly.

New Territories—Various works were carried out, largely of an anti-malarial nature.

WATER WORKS.

Hong Kong.—The eastern half of the Service Reservoir at the Eastern Filter Beds was completed, with the exception of the roof, and was put into use, while the invert and walls of the western section were approaching completion.

The new Simpson Engine at Tytam Tuk Pumping Station was completed and placed in commission after satisfactory tests had been run.

Stanley Mound East Catchwater was satisfactorily completed.

Totals of 950 lin. ft. of 18" diameter, 2,500 lin. ft. of 15" diameter and 300 lin. ft. of 6" diameter C.I. pipes were laid in Monmouth Path, Queen's Road Central and D'Aguilar Street respectively during the year.

A Contract for the Chemical House and Concrete Filter Beds at Bowen Road was let and good progress had been made by the end of the year.

New mechanical sand washers were received during the year and a considerable saving has been effected in sand washing costs.

Kowloon.—Improvements and renewals to the distributing system were continued.

The four new filter beds at Lai Chi Kok Pass were completed and placed in commission.

The extension to Beacon Hill Catchwater was completed.

Shing Mun Valley Scheme.—The Access Road from Tsun Wan to Pineapple Pass was completed.

The North and South Tunnels under Smugglers' Ridge and Golden Hill respectively, a total length of 6,672 lin. ft., were completed.

The Reception Reservoir was completed and filled with water from the Shing Mun River by means of the tunnels before the end of the year.

The 24" diameter steel mains arrived from England, but no laying was undertaken.

RECLAMATIONS

Hong Kong.—Praya East, about 90 acres, of which about 58½ acres were reclaimed by the end of the year.

Quarry Bay.—3½ acres, wholly completed.

North Point.—Private scheme, 23½ acres, approximately 19½ acres completed.

Kowloon.—Tai Kok Tsui Reclamation, total area 54 acres approximately, of which 48 acres were reclaimed at the end of the year.

New Kowloon.—Sham Shui Po Reclamation comprising an area of 66 acres almost completed except for sea wall.

Kai Tack Reclamation, private enterprise, practically no work done during the year.

Kowloon Bay West Reclamation, satisfactory progress made, about 7¼ acres formed by the end of the year.

Kowloon Bay East Reclamation, 18½ acres, approximately 15½ acres completed

New Territories.—Further reclamation work undertaken by the Standard Oil Co., in progress.

PIERS.

Hong Kong.—Work on the contract for overhauling and repairing Blake Pier was commenced towards the end of the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Fair progress was made with the levelling of the Kowloon Tong Development Scheme Areas, approximately 13 acres being handed over to the Company during the year.

The total amount expended on Public Works Extraordinary was \$4,720,000.19 and on annually recurrent works \$1,822,816.80.

RAILWAY.

The Water Tank and Tower at Kowloon was completed. The old tank together with the wooden coal ramp was dismantled and the existing water column connected by a 6 inch pipe to the new tank. The base of the tower was covered with a cement concrete floor.

A contract for the Extension to Platform Awnings, Kowloon was let in October of last year. Owing to the softness of the column foundations, hardwood piles had to be substituted for the usual China fir piles. Apart from this, the construction was exactly similar to the existing portion. Considerable delay was experienced in completing this work owing to the Asbestos Corrugated Sheets arriving in a badly damaged condition. Approximately only 50% were intact and fresh sheeting was obtained through a local firm. This arrived in good order and the work was completed before the end of the year.

2,200 feet of Cement Concrete Channels were laid in No. 1 Cutting. A good deal of rock cutting was involved.

At Taipo Station a considerable amount of work was carried out. All drains at or near the station have been attended to with a view to preventing as far as possible mosquito breeding areas within the Railway boundaries.

A portion of the existing channel in Gills Cutting was taken up and relaid.

A further 3 bays of the Running Shed roof were stripped and replaced with Asbestos Corrugated Sheetting. Only 2 bays now remain to be done.

The brick arches formerly partitioning the old and extended portions of Running Shed No. 2 were dismantled in order to give more room for overhauling locomotives. The glazing in the roof of the Machine and Erecting Shops was painted green in an endeavour to lower the temperature of these shops which is very oppressive during the summer months.

A new butt end loading ramp for vehicles was constructed at the siding near the Railway Pier, Kowloon Station.

The Sea Wall in front of Kowloon Station was grouted with cement mortar.

The shafts on both sides of Beacon Hill Tunnel were found hollowed out on the top. They were filled in, and turfed and channels constructed around them.

Attempts were made to lessen the water leakage inside the tunnel.

The painting of Bridge No. 49 was completed without trouble. This work was held up in 1925 owing to interference by Strike Pickets. Small repairs were carried out to the abutments of Bridges Nos. 25 and 33.

In view of a number of derailments at points No. 48 of Kowloon Station, an emergency crossover was laid near the half mile post.

The storm which visited Hong Kong in early morning of July 19th when nearly 20 inches of rain fell in eight hours, caused very little damage to the Railway considering the heavy rainfall.

Slips occurred in No. 1 Cutting, North Face of No. 2 Tunnel and Lowu, also at Wo Hang and Ma Mei Ha on the Fanling Branch Line. Although the amount of soil in No. 1 Cutting was about 1,000 tons it was cleared with little interruption of traffic.

Other damage consisted of a wash-out near the Sea Wall opposite the block station at Hung Hom. The pitched slope to Railway Bank was damaged at Miles $10\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$ respectively. The inverts of some bridges were washed out and there was slight damage to the Engine Sheds at Fanling and Shataukok.

In anticipation of heavy traffic during Fanling Hunt Race Meetings, the approach road to Fanling Station was widened for parking purposes. The level crossing for the main road between Fanling and Taiipo was timbered and extended to allow for the turn of motor vehicles proceeding down the road to Shataukok.

The conditions obtaining on the Railway as a whole during the year have shown a very appreciable improvement over those of the previous year. Nevertheless the train services have been subjected to frequent interruptions and late running, over which this Section had no control.

Early in the year the through train services were resumed consisting of a third class slow train in each direction daily. The locomotives and stock of the Chinese Section were in such a bad state of repair that the trains could not run to time and on some occasions the passengers had to remain at the border over-night, coming forward the following morning.

It was felt that this slow through service imposed a distinct hardship on the passengers and it was therefore decided to run the one train each way as a fast train over the Chinese Section with corresponding fast trains on this Section to connect. They were discontinued on October 25th when the time-table was revised and it is found possible to put on an express train and a slow train to and from Canton daily.

On July 22nd all morning trains were cancelled due to a typhoon in close proximity to the Colony.

RAILWAY.

The Water Tank and Tower at Kowloon was completed. The old tank together with the wooden coal ramp was dismantled and the existing water column connected by a 6 inch pipe to the new tank. The base of the tower was covered with a cement concrete floor.

A contract for the Extension to Platform Awnings, Kowloon was let in October of last year. Owing to the softness of the column foundations, hardwood piles had to be substituted for the usual China fir piles. Apart from this, the construction was exactly similar to the existing portion. Considerable delay was experienced in completing this work owing to the Asbestos Corrugated Sheets arriving in a badly damaged condition. Approximately only 50% were intact and fresh sheeting was obtained through a local firm. This arrived in good order and the work was completed before the end of the year.

2,200 feet of Cement Concrete Channels were laid in No. 1 Cutting. A good deal of rock cutting was involved.

At Taipo Station a considerable amount of work was carried out. All drains at or near the station have been attended to with a view to preventing as far as possible mosquito breeding areas within the Railway boundaries.

A portion of the existing channel in Gills Cutting was taken up and relaid.

A further 3 bays of the Running Shed roof were stripped and replaced with Asbestos Corrugated Sheetings. Only 2 bays now remain to be done.

The brick arches formerly partitioning the old and extended portions of Running Shed No. 2 were dismantled in order to give more room for overhauling locomotives. The glazing in the roof of the Machine and Erecting Shops was painted green in an endeavour to lower the temperature of these shops which is very oppressive during the summer months.

A new butt end loading ramp for vehicles was constructed at the siding near the Railway Pier, Kowloon Station.

The Sea Wall in front of Kowloon Station was grouted with cement mortar.

The shafts on both sides of Beacon Hill Tunnel were found hollowed out on the top. They were filled in, and turfed and channels constructed around them.

Attempts were made to lessen the water leakage inside the tunnel.

The painting of Bridge No. 49 was completed without trouble. This work was held up in 1925 owing to interference by Strike Pickets. Small repairs were carried out to the abutments of Bridges Nos. 25 and 33.

In view of a number of derailments at points No. 48 of Kowloon Station, an emergency crossover was laid near the half mile post.

The storm which visited Hong Kong in early morning of July 19th when nearly 20 inches of rain fell in eight hours, caused very little damage to the Railway considering the heavy rainfall.

Slips occurred in No. 1 Cutting, North Face of No. 2 Tunnel and Lowu, also at Wo Hang and Ma Mei Ha on the Fanling Branch Line. Although the amount of soil in No. 1 Cutting was about 1,000 tons it was cleared with little interruption of traffic.

Other damage consisted of a wash-out near the Sea Wall opposite the block station at Hung Hom. The pitched slope to Railway Bank was damaged at Miles $10\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$ respectively. The inverts of some bridges were washed out and there was slight damage to the Engine Sheds at Fanling and Shataukok.

In anticipation of heavy traffic during Fanling Hunt Race Meetings, the approach road to Fanling Station was widened for parking purposes. The level crossing for the main road between Fanling and Taiipo was timbered and extended to allow for the turn of motor vehicles proceeding down the road to Shataukok.

The conditions obtaining on the Railway as a whole during the year have shown a very appreciable improvement over those of the previous year. Nevertheless the train services have been subjected to frequent interruptions and late running, over which this Section had no control.

Early in the year the through train services were resumed consisting of a third class slow train in each direction daily. The locomotives and stock of the Chinese Section were in such a bad state of repair that the trains could not run to time and on some occasions the passengers had to remain at the border over-night, coming forward the following morning.

It was felt that this slow through service imposed a distinct hardship on the passengers and it was therefore decided to run the one train each way as a fast train over the Chinese Section with corresponding fast trains on this Section to connect. They were discontinued on October 25th when the time-table was revised and it is found possible to put on an express train and a slow train to and from Canton daily.

On July 22nd all morning trains were cancelled due to a typhoon in close proximity to the Colony.

The Railway Division of St. John's Ambulance Brigade continued to render excellent service. Mr. I. B. Trevor, Traffic Assistant, was appointed Ambulance Officer as from 16th November 1926.

The Division again won the "Holyoak" Attendance Cup.

During the year depreciation on rolling stock has been calculated, the rate taken being the scale laid down in the classification of expenditure prescribed by the Ministry of Communications, Peking.

The depreciation charges in respect of the years prior to 1926, is debited to Delayed Operating Debits in the Profit and Loss Account, and \$79,544.36 representing depreciation for the current year is included in the operating expenses, Maintenance of Equipment, under the usual sub-heads. The amount to the credit of depreciation Reserves at the close of the year was \$686,042.65.

The Local passenger receipts amounted to \$427,230.22 as against \$332,268.31 for the previous year, and the goods receipts were \$25,861.33 or \$4,098.69 more than the previous year. The Through and Joint Sectional Traffic receipts were \$32,291.91 as compared with \$17,562.38 for the year 1925.

The Fanling Branch Line was closed on January 11th until the 3rd of May. The receipts were \$8,244.86 or \$3,739.73 less than the previous year.

Through and Joint Sectional passengers carried were as follows:—

	1924.	1925.	1926.
Passengers booked at Stations in British Territory to Stations in China including Lowu	168,734	16,224*	18,031*
Passengers booked at Stations in China including Lowu to Stations in British Territory	157,115	16,316*	17,609*

The Local Passengers carried were as follows:—

	1924.	1925.	1926.
Main Line	1,177,234	1,083,821	1,151,780
Fanling Branch Line	82,505	58,419	48,451

* Lowu bookings not included as formerly.

VI.—GOVERNMENT AND AIDED INSTITUTIONS.

(a)—HOSPITALS.

Government Hospitals consist of the Civil Hospital, to which is attached an isolated Maternity Hospital, the Victoria Hospital for Women and Children, Kowloon Hospital and the Kennedy Town Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The Civil Hospital contains 198 beds in 23 wards. 5,381 in-patients and 16,969 out-patients were treated during 1926 as against 5,774 and 30,889 respectively in 1925. 665 cases of malarial fever were admitted as against 1,140 in 1925 and 1,620 in 1924. The total cases of malaria for all Government Hospitals and the Lung Wa Hospital shows a decrease of 293 cases as compared with the year 1925. The Maternity Hospital contains 9 beds for Europeans, plus 3 extra beds, and 8 for Asiatics. 626 confinements occurred during the year as against 668 in 1925. The Victoria Hospital at the Peak contains 90 beds, and during 1926, 267 patients were under treatment there. At Kennedy Town Hospital, which contains 26 beds, 13 cases were treated in 1926, being infectious. The Kowloon Hospital contains 48 beds, and during 1926, 894 patients were treated.

(b)—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The Asylum is under the direction of the Medical Officer in Charge of the Civil Hospital. European and Chinese patients are separated, the European portion containing 14 beds in separate wards and the Chinese portion 16 beds. 290 patients of all races were treated during 1926 and there was 16 deaths.

(c)—THE TUNG WA AND OTHER CHINESE HOSPITALS.

The Tung Wa Hospital, opened in 1872, is mainly supported by the voluntary subscriptions of Chinese, but receives an annual grant of \$8,000 from the Government. Only Chinese are treated in this institution. Various other services not appertaining to a hospital are performed by the institution, such as the free burial of the poor, the repatriation of destitutes, the maintenance of free vernacular schools, and the organisation of charitable relief in emergencies; Chinese as well as European methods of treatment are employed in accordance with the wishes expressed by the patients or their friends. Over half the number are now treated by Western methods. The hospital is managed by a committee of Chinese gentlemen annually elected, their appointment being submitted to the Governor for confirmation. It is under the supervision of a visiting physician, who is a member of the Medical Department, whilst two Chinese house surgeons, trained in Western medicine, are members of the hospital staff. There are 480 beds in the buildings, and 7,951 patients were accommodated during 1926.

The Tung Wa also maintain a branch hospital for small-pox cases (Chinese only) at Kennedy Town. It contains 70 beds and during 1926, 23 cases were treated.

The Kwong Wa Hospital for Chinese in the Kowloon Peninsula was opened on the 9th October, 1911. It occupies a site having an area of three acres and provides accommodation for 226 patients. The existing buildings contain 226 beds and 6,336 patients were accommodated during 1926. The collection of subscriptions and the supervision of the building were undertaken by a special committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs. The hospital received a grant of \$33,500 in 1926 from the Government.

VII.—INSTITUTIONS NOT SUPPORTED BY GOVERNMENT.

Among institutions recognised and encouraged, but not to any considerable extent supported by Government may be mentioned the Pó Leung Kuk, the Eyre Refuge, the City Hall, and the Chinese Public Dispensaries.

The Pó Leung Kuk is a Chinese Society founded in 1878 for the suppression of kidnapping and traffic in human beings. It was incorporated in 1893 and is presided over by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs and not more than twelve directors nominated by the Governor. The actual management is entrusted to a committee elected annually by the members of the Society. The Society's buildings have been declared a Refuge under the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance, and almost all women and girls detained by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs under that Ordinance are sent to the Pó Leung Kuk. During 1926 the number of persons admitted was 299 and at the close of the year 45 remained under the care of the Society. The inmates are under the immediate charge of a Chinese matron, and instruction is given them by the matron and a Chinese teacher in elementary subjects and in needlework.

The Chinese Public Dispensaries are institutions maintained in order to provide the Chinese with the services of doctors, whose certificates will be accepted by the Registrar of Deaths, and with the services of interpreters, who can assist the inmates of houses, where a case of infectious disease has occurred. Coolies are engaged and ambulances and dead vans provided in order to remove cases of infectious disease to the Infectious Diseases Hospital and dead bodies to the Mortuary. The Dispensaries receive sick infants and send them to one or other of the Convents and arrange for the burial of dead infants. Free advice and medicine are given and patients are attended at their houses. There are eight Dispensaries in existence. The total cost of maintenance was \$77,375 for the year 1925. The Government makes an annual grant of \$12,000, and the rest of the cost is defrayed by voluntary subscription. The Dispensaries are conducted by committees under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

VIII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The total of all cases reported to the Police was 20,048 being an increase of 3,265 or 8.3 per cent as compared with 1925. There was in 1926 an increase in serious offences of 599 or 15.8 per cent as compared with the previous year. The number of serious offences reported was 185 above the average of the quinquennial period commencing with the year 1922. The number of minor offences reported shows an increase of 2,666 as compared with 1925 and was 3,355 over the average of the quinquennial period.

The total strength of the Police Force in 1926 was Europeans 246, Indians 572, Chinese 946 making a total of 1,764 exclusive of the eight superior officers and staff of clerks and coolies. These figures include police paid for by the Railway and other Government departments. Of this force 16 Europeans, 79 Indians, and 98 Chinese were stationed in the New Territories during the year.

The District Watchmen Force, numbering 122, to which the Government contributes \$2,000 per annum, was well supported by the Chinese during the year. These watchmen patrol the streets in the Chinese quarter of the City. They are placed on police beats and are supervised by the European police on section patrol. A detective branch of the force has done useful work under the supervision of a European Inspector.

The total number of persons committed to Victoria Gaol was 6,511 as compared with 6,339 in 1925. Of these 1,154 were committed for criminal offences against 613 in 1925. Of committals for non-criminal offences there were 106 less for hawking without a licence, and 2 more for unlawfully cutting trees, than in 1925.

The daily average of prisoners confined in the Gaol was 1,054 the average for 1925 being 1,116, and the highest previous average being 1,066 in 1924. The percentage of prisoners to population, according to the daily average of the former and the estimated number of the latter, was 0.13. The average percentage for the last ten years was 0.13. Owing, however, to the large floating population, which is constantly moving between the Colony and Chinese Territory, the percentage of crime to population does not convey an accurate idea of the comparative criminality of the residents of the Colony. The Victoria Gaol has accommodation for 700 prisoners including patients in Hospital. The Branch Prison at Laichikok has accommodation for 450 prisoners in association.

The prison discipline was satisfactory, the average of punishments per prisoner being 0.49 as compared with 0.71 in 1925 and 0.43 in 1924.

Long sentence prisoners serving two years and upwards are taught useful trades, including printing, book-binding, tin-smithing, mat-making, tailoring, carpentering, etc. The profit on the work done was \$148,667.80 as against \$122,221.20 in 1925. A sum of \$4,029 was received and credited to Government for non-Government work as against \$3,758 in 1925.

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(a.)—POPULATION.

The civil population of the Colony, according to the census taken on April 24th, 1921, was 625,166, of whom 83,163 reside in the New Territories and in New Kowloon; at the census taken in 1911 it was 456,739 with 104,287 as the figure for the New Territories and New Kowloon. The estimated total population at the middle of the year under review was 874,420, but this includes the New Territories; and, as the birth and death figures given below do not include those from this area (with the exception of New Kowloon), the population for the purposes of calculating these rates is estimated at 786,920, of whom 16,500 were non-Chinese.

The distribution of population estimated to the middle of 1925 was as follows:—

Non-Chinese Civil Community,		16,500
Chinese Population.	City of Victoria (including Peak),	465,000
	Villages of Hong Kong,	33,040
	Kowloon (including New Kowloon),	200,000
	New Territories,	87,500
	Population afloat,	72,380
Total Chinese Population,		857,920
Total Civil Population,		874,420

(b.)—PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The birth-rate for the year was 4·18* per 1,000 among the Chinese community and 19·0 per 1,000 among the non-Chinese community, as compared with 4·16 and 19·0 for 1925.

The death-rate for the year was 16·01 per 1,000 among the Chinese community and 10·2 among the non-Chinese civil community, as compared with 19·12 and 14·6 for 1925.

The deaths from Malaria numbered 587 (702 in 1925). The deaths of Chinese from this cause in the City of Victoria numbered 161 out of a population of 465,000 or a rate of 0·34 per 1,000 per annum.

The deaths from Plague numbered nil. The last deaths from Plague occurred in 1923.

Small-pox deaths numbered 26 of which 25 were Chinese.

* This figure is wholly misleading as it is impossible to register more than a portion of the births.

1926.

	General Tuberculosis.	Beri-beri.	Cancer.	Paralysis and Convulsions.	Heart Diseases.	Pneumonia.	Phthisis & Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Enteritis and Gastro-Enteritis.	Cirrhosis of Liver.	Peritonitis.	Nephritis.	Other causes.	Unknown.	All causes.
5	2	...	4	...	10	16	28	4	...	2	9	56	2	180
	110	570	67	82	112	1,331	994	527	26	14	211	2277	61	7,531
5	9	45	4	2	1	56	48	22	2	3	14	54	51	484
	76	419	34	18	52	830	359	449	4	9	178	417	74	3,606
	3	75	...	...	...	34	12	11	...	...	9	68	8	328
	...	29	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	26	...	99
	...	26	2	3	1	6	30	1	1	...	3	5	...	125
	...	28	...	...	...	...	43	...	...	...	...	...	3	147
	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	6	5	16

	200	1192	111	105	176	2,273	1517	1015	33	28	425	2909	204	12,516
	253	1744	116	110	202	2,878	1831	1080	35	28	433	2931	292	14,991

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased.

ASHANTI.
BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES.
GRENADA.

HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
WEI-HAI-WEI.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
'IRAQ.

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

BRITISH TOGOLAND.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

The

Sale Offices

of

H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE
will

- tell you what recent Government Publications have appeared on subjects which interest you.
- supply you promptly and cheaply with reports and other works of current and topical interest ; *e.g.*, the Budget, the Coal Report.
- receive your subscriptions for the early delivery of important papers; *e.g.*, Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), the Board of Trade Journal, etc.
- accept a deposit account and execute standing orders for all publications which interest you; *e.g.*, those on History, Medicine, Law, Education, Trade, Shipping, Wireless, Coal Mining, etc.
- supply you, without charge, with catalogues, lists and leaflets.

Call at or write to any of these addresses

LONDON:

Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2 ;
York Street, MANCHESTER ; 120 George Street,
EDINBURGH ; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent,
CARDIFF ; 15 Donegall Square W., BELFAST.

✓

08

STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

To avoid fine, this book should be returned on
or before the date last stamped below

APR 18 1917

AB

